JÜRGEN KLOPP • JORDAN HENDERSON • MO SALAH • TROPHIES • MORE TROPHIES • SOME MORE TROPHIES

LIVERPOOL FC



Premier League

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Mural on Jamaica Street by Caleb

Contents

Reach Sport
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YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB
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PRECIOUS METAL

From left to right: UEFA Super Cup, won 14 August 2019 in Istanbul; FA Premier League, officially awarded 22 July 2020 in Liverpool; UEFA Champions League, won 1 June 2019 in Madrid; and FIFA Club World Cup, won 21 December 2019 in Qatar.




FIFA



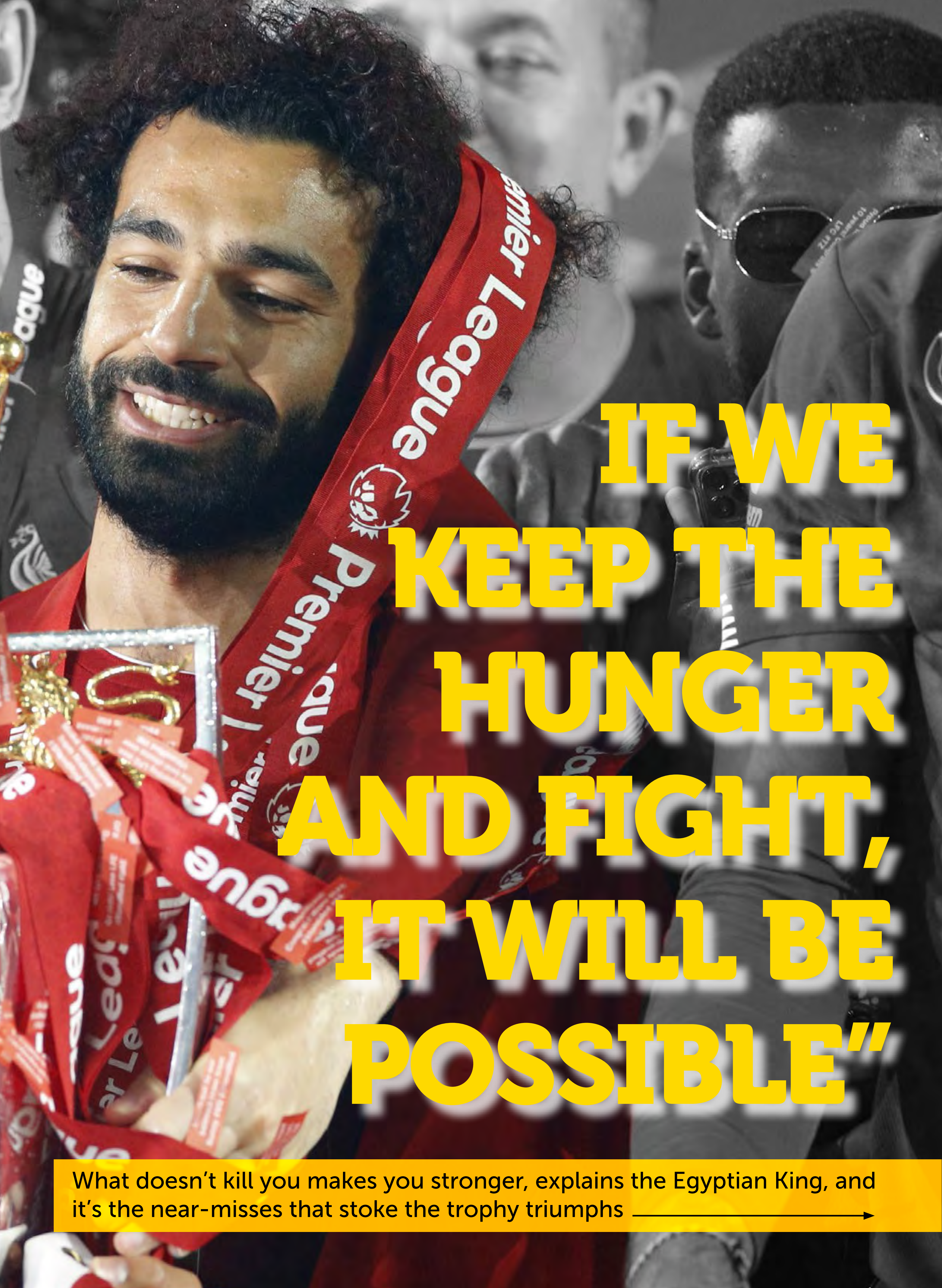
RED NEIGHBOURS

The Trent Alexander-Arnold mural on the corner of Sybil Road and Anfield Road, commissioned by The Anfield Wrap, now has company – another stunning piece of street-art, this time depicting Jordan Henderson in a familiar pose and commissioned by Redmen TV.


ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE NEVER STOP BELIEVING...
SYBIL ROAD L4

“CAN WE WIN IT AGAIN?





IF WE KEEP THE HUNGER AND FIGHT, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE”

What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger, explains the Egyptian King, and it’s the near-misses that stoke the trophy triumphs →

MOHAMED SALAH, PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPION. HOW DOES THAT FEEL?

Great! It's a great feeling to win the Premier League with the club after 30 years without the league title and it's a dream-come-true.

As you know, the Premier League for the fans has been more important than the Champions League so even though we won the Champions League last year, the people were saying, 'Premier League, Premier League, Premier League' so it's unbelievable.

I was very, very excited to enjoy the moment, to hold the trophy and celebrate with my team-mates and to know we were doing it for the fans. So yes, it was unbelievable.

WHEN YOU FIRST SIGNED FOR LIVERPOOL THREE YEARS AGO YOU TALKED ABOUT WINNING THE PREMIER LEAGUE...

I returned to this country and when I think back to my first few interviews, people were asking me why I came back after I had a bad experience with Chelsea. I said that I came back to prove them wrong and that I wanted to win trophies with Liverpool. I said, "I want to win the Champions League, I want to win the Premier League."

Even some of my close friends were like: "Really?' 27 years and they haven't won the title and you think you will come and try to change that?" I said, "This is who I am and I will do my best to do that."

The first year we lost in the Champions League final and we felt confidence that we had reached that level, the second year we won the Champions League, the third year the Premier League. So yes, I do remember the first interviews I did and I watch them back sometimes just to remind myself of the first days I was here and where I am now.

AFTER MISSING OUT ON THE TITLE BY ONE POINT LAST SEASON, DID THIS YEAR FEEL LIKE A RELIEF OR REVENGE?

I think it [last season] gave us more confidence to take each step. When you reach so many points in the Premier League, you feel that you can do it again. With those kind of numbers you know that if you do it again, you'll have got a good chance of winning the Premier League. I think that's what's happening now.

It was disappointing for us and for the fans as well to miss out on the league title but each step has given us more confidence that every year we're getting closer and closer and closer. As I say, the first year that I was here we lost the Champions League in the last game and the second year we won the Champions League and there was one-point difference between us and City.

This third year you felt that the progress and the improvement was getting better and better and better and so I think that it gave us more confidence.

WAS THERE A PARTICULAR POINT ALONG THE WAY WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY TO BECOMING CHAMPIONS?

We believed we could win the title from the first game although, for me, I think it was more like when we beat Manchester City at home. When you beat the champions of last season and the season before and the gap between you and them is getting bigger, it's important. For me that game was worth six points rather than three because it meant the gap was getting bigger and bigger [nine points over City].

Of course they have an unbelievable team and it was still early because that game was in November but that's the moment we really felt: we are going to do it this year.

I think for the fans it was different. For them, I think it was the




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win against Man United in January. That was another really important match for us to win. The team did great, everybody gave his best and I scored in the last minute as well. I think that was the moment when the fans started to believe that we were going to win the league and that's why they sang that after the game.

But in my head I'd say it was more that the Man City result helped us to keep the confidence high and that this was our season. Maybe for the fans it was more the United game because last season around the same time of year, after Christmas, we had been struggling a little bit. So for myself it was Man City, maybe for the fans it was more about Man United!

ANOTHER KEY PERIOD WAS COMING BACK FROM QATAR WHEN THE TEAM WON THE NEXT TEN LEAGUE GAMES – DID THAT SEQUENCE SURPRISE YOU?

No, I was not surprised because we were champions of Europe and we won the Club World Cup as well! So we have a good squad with many players and everyone performs as a top player which is the most important thing, so I wasn't surprised at all.

Leicester were our closest rivals at the time but we just take each game at a time and, like I said, we knew our team was going great with each player performing at his best. It was a tough game but I think we rotated the squad and the manager did a great job as well at that time.

THE MANAGER HAS SAID THAT "IT'S FANTASTIC TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE MO IN OUR LIVES" – WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU?

It means a lot, to be honest, but it's not just me. If you ask everybody in the squad he would probably say the same about





them and he's unbelievable with everybody, not only me.

Our relationship is really good and I have said that all the time since I came here. Our relationship is like friends. His relationship is really good with everybody in the team and that's why it's helped everybody to perform at his best. He wants to win all the time. That makes him really special. He wants to win trophies. That's what he did at his other clubs and that's why he came here. He's always competitive to win.

He's doing great! He won the Champions League with the team, the Club World Cup with the team and now the Premier League after 30 years.

YOU HAVE HAD A LITTLE RITUAL GOING WITH THE BOSS WHERE YOU ARE ALWAYS THE LAST ON THE PITCH AND ALWAYS GET A HUG FROM HIM BEFORE LEAVING THE TUNNEL...

It's been working pretty good so we will just try to keep it as long as we can, although during social-distancing it has had to be a hug from far away! Maybe that's the only thing I really stick on as a routine, in general I don't really have a lot of things.

I know other players have to follow the same things every day at the same time but I'm not like that. I have met some players in my career who have to eat the same number of spoonfuls of fries and meat and so on. It's as though the chicken and rice makes them better which I'm not sure can't really be the case! But it's different between all the players.

WHEN YOU RECEIVED YOUR MEDAL, YOU WERE DRAPED IN AN EGYPTIAN FLAG – HOW HAS THE WIN BEEN RECEIVED BACK HOME?

It has been great. The people are still very happy about me winning the Premier League, especially with Liverpool as Liverpool's really, really big in the Middle East and it becomes bigger and bigger all the time. The people there are following the games and supporting the team like crazy, so I am really proud of that. I am really happy that the people are behind me and behind the club all the time.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE LIFTING THE TROPHY AFTER THE CHELSEA MATCH WITHOUT ANY FANS PRESENT?

It was a bit tough but we tried to enjoy it as much as we could because we were sure the fans were doing the same thing. We celebrated it and we will see what will happen next season.

Hopefully the situation will be better and we can go to the city and celebrate it with the fans at some point. I'm sure we will try to find a way to do that but until then we had to celebrate as much as we could.

FOOTBALL NEVER STANDS STILL. AFTER WINNING THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, THE CLUB WORLD CUP AND NOW THE PREMIER LEAGUE, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACHIEVE NEXT SEASON?

I think next season will be really difficult, more difficult than this one because it's normal that when you win something – the Champions League, the Premier League – that it takes something from your hunger. So the thing is now you have to change that mentality, you have to find the point in your head that drives you forward and keeps that hunger for next season and the season after.

I don't know why we can't win the Premier League two times or three times. I think if we keep that hunger and we fight with everything that we have, it will be okay to do it next season. It will be possible.

Other teams will try to strike back again to win the title but I think if the hunger can drive us again to win another trophy and another one, hopefully we can do that. We will have to fight for that. That has to be the mentality.

ON A PERSONAL LEVEL YOU HAVE ALSO SHOWN INCREDIBLE CONSISTENCY SINCE COMING BACK TO ENGLISH FOOTBALL WITH 94 GOALS IN 152 GAMES FOR LIVERPOOL?

I have been only a few games on the bench and thinking about that, 150 games on the field is unbelievable. When you play 150 in three years with some good goals and good numbers with the team it is very pleasing.

The improvement for the team is unbelievable, the progress we have made in those three years is great. The team we are building is great. So every year we have to feel that improvement and

that's what we are feeling right now. You can see that everything is working well and I'm so proud of that, especially the number of games because I feel that I have sacrificed a lot for that, being in the gym always and making sure the recovery and treatment is right and so on. That gives me a good feeling that I'm doing the right things at the right times.

It's unbelievable to play 50 games a season – that's really something I love!

YOU HAVE A FABULOUS LINK-UP WITH BOBBY FIRMINO AND SADIO MANE – HOW DID THAT RELATIONSHIP BECOME SO STRONG?

It's easy when you play with footballers like them. In the field it makes life easy for you all when you understand football. When you play together for a long time as well, you understand how they play and they understand the way you play. So because we have played many games together it makes life easier for all of us.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPROVE?

My left foot, right foot and head! I had been doing a lot of individual work on my heading and you could see that against Brighton last month I scored with my head. I have scored a few goals with my right foot, too, so those things have been improving



WHEN NUMBERS GET SERIOUS: MO'S THREE LFC SEASONS

	Premier League/all comps		
Season	Apps	Goals	Assists
2017/19	36/52	32/44	10/15
2018/19	38/52	22/27	8/10
2019/20	34/48	19/23	10/13
Total	108/152	73/94	28/38

BALLERS AND BASKETBALLERS

"In terms of footballers, I was always looking up to Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane and Francesco Totti when I was younger. They were unbelievable. On the other hand, I was also watching pop stars and basketball players. I wanted to understand how they thought, how their mentality was. So it was always different but in football I would choose those three. They were phenomenal players and I was always looking up to those three.

"I liked basketball too and I recently watched *The Last Dance* documentary about Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls. It was really interesting. Everyone knows how big Michael Jordan is but he showed that he doesn't really care about the people's opinions. He just showed you the real story and the real person he was. Sometimes he was tough, really tough, with his team-mates but he said, 'Accept me or not but this is who I am' and I give him a lot of credit for that."



and I'm happy about that because I can score with any leg right now and my head as well!

WHAT IS THE BEST MOMENT YOU HAVE HAD IN THE DRESSING-ROOM AT LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB?

I'd have to say the Barcelona game. The Barcelona game was really, really special. And I can also choose the moment we won the Premier League when Chelsea beat Man City. It wasn't in the dressing-room but in that moment we were all together and it was unbelievable.

YOU'VE COME FROM GROWING UP IN A SMALL VILLAGE IN EGYPT TO BEING NAMED ONE OF TIME MAGAZINE'S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF 2019. HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO STAY HUMBLE?

I don't know, to be honest I didn't think about that when I was young but I always take one step at a time. I look to myself and where I am now as a player and what I want next season and that's what I have done all the time in my career.

When I was in Egypt and I played in the first-team at El Mokawloon when I was 17-years-old I was asking myself: what do I want now, what do I want next?' I said to myself: I want to play in Europe. So I went to play in Europe when I was 19-and-a-half.

Then I told myself: okay, what do you want next, do you want to play in Basel for a while and then go back to Egypt, or do you want to play at the top level?

So I went to Basel and then to Chelsea and I asked myself again: what do you want? So I am asking myself questions all the time to improve myself as a person and as a player.

How to handle that? I don't know. I can say I'm humble enough to handle that but I don't know, I just try to be the person I am and not change a lot. I am just living my life and I appreciate everything I have.





TOMORROW'S RED

Youngsters delighted to sign new development in season 2019/20

In the space of two July days, as Liverpool edged towards the Premier League title, the club's future was taking further shape as first Curtis Jones then Harvey Elliott signed new contracts with the club.

For Curtis it was a deal that extends an association with his boyhood club and his first reaction was to call it "massive" and describe himself as "extremely proud."

The 19-year-old, who made his senior debut in January 2019, scored against Everton and Shrewsbury Town in the 2019/20 FA Cup then Aston Villa in the Premier League 24 hours after agreeing his new contract, added: "We're working with a great manager and around the best team in the world, so for me it was easy [to sign the new deal].

"It's a perfect environment. I've got great boys around that help me every day – Hendo, Millie, Lallana, Fabinho, the whole of the team is perfect for me to watch every day in training.

"But to be involved with them, you pick up so many things and the detail in what they do, their professionalism around the place, it's perfect. So I'm picking up all that and taking it into my game and to me as a person. It's paying off right."

Manager Jürgen Klopp declared: "Good for him and good for us. We will have a lot of fun with him in the future."

In turn Harvey, having turned 17 in April, signed his first-ever professional contract with the club. "Since the first day I've walked in, it's been an indescribable journey so far," he told the club website.

"To top it off with my first professional contract is a dream-come-true for me and my family. I'm excited to see what the future holds and just want to give everything to the club and the fans."

The former Fulham midfielder made eight first-team appearances for the Reds last season, having made his debut in the EFL Cup tie at MK Dons. Most recently he came on as a substitute during the 4-0 Premier League win

MEN

contracts following their strong

over Crystal Palace at Anfield in June.

"Brilliant news" was the reaction from manager Jürgen Klopp. "Harvey is such an exciting prospect. "I love his attitude, love his enthusiasm, love his bravery, love the fact he has the right amount of football confidence and cheekiness.

"He is young and he is in the early stages of his development still. What is great is that he has the perfect culture here and we will protect him. The senior players and the coaches really care about him and are as excited as I am about his future. So we will all be part of his story as it unfolds."

There was encouragement and advice, too, from skipper Jordan Henderson: "Football is full of unbelievably talented players, but to achieve your full potential you need more and Curtis has shown he totally understands that.

"It's so pleasing to see how he's grown and developed and sometimes I have to remind myself how young he is, because he has the physical attributes of a much more experienced player.

"When he scored his goal against Aston Villa you could see immediately how chuffed the other boys were and that's because we all recognise the strides he's made to get to this point.

"If he keeps that attitude of making sure improvement and learning is his number one focus, he really can achieve anything he wants."

The captain called Elliott's talent "frightening...and what excites me most of all is that there is still so much more room for development. You can see he has a hunger and thirst for learning from the coaches and from the other players.

"The other point to make, on Harvey in particular, is something the gaffer said about allowing him space and time to grow. There is quite a lot of focus on Harvey and I get that because of things like being the youngest player to make an appearance in the Premier League.

"[But] being at a club like ours, at their age, is a challenge and we all have responsibility – players, staff and even supporters – to make sure we have the patience and understanding to help them through the more difficult spells and not add to the pressure."




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PARTY STARTED

Exclusive shots from inside the dressing-room as the Reds finally get hold of that shiny Premier League trophy



CURT ON CAMERA
Mo Salah poses with the trophy and youngster Curtis Jones, who came off the bench against Chelsea to make his sixth Premier League appearance of the season.

OUR NUMBER ONE

In two Premier League seasons with the Reds, goalkeeper Alisson has now kept 34 clean-sheets in 67 appearances, with 53 wins and just four losses in that time.

TEAM EFFORT

Joe, Mo, Virgil, Dejan and Gini celebrate with coaching staff Andreas Kornmayer (head of fitness and conditioning) and Christopher Rohrbeck (physiotherapist).

CAMPIONE!
Fab's got the moves while VVD and Robbo throw some shapes and Trent provides the percussion.



WE BELIEVE

The boss with assistant Pep Lijnders, who told the club website at the start of the year: "Ninety per cent of the three points are made in the week before the game. Probably we only have one rule: that's always 100 per cent attitude."



LIVERPOOL IS RED

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A SENSATIONAL SEASON IN 19 STATS

Wins, points, runs, goals, assists and a few telling percentages thrown in for good measure – this is how it was

99 *A club records points tally.*

32 *Most wins in a league season.*

14 *Most away wins in a league campaign.*

13 *Most league 'doubles' in a league season.*

44 *Joint-highest number of away-points won in a league season.*

19 *All the other 19 teams in the Premier League were beaten by 29 January 2020 – a new record. Back in the in 1888/89 season Preston North End had beaten the other eleven teams in English football's top-flight by 9 February.*




2013-14 MANCHESTER CIT
2014-15 CHELSEA
2015-16 LEICESTER CITY
2016-17 CHELSEA
2017-18 MANCHESTER C
2018-19 MANCHESTER C
2019-20 LIVERPOOL

24 *Most consecutive top-flight league wins at home, achieved when Liverpool defeated Aston Villa at Anfield in July. The previous record of 21 was set by Bill Shankly's Reds back in 1972.*

3 *Successive seasons without a league defeat at Anfield, another club record.*

84.21 *Percentage of league games won, equalling the record total set by Manchester City in seasons 2017/18 and 2018/19.*

11,106 *Days between Liverpool FC being confirmed as Division One champions in 1989/90 and Premier League winners in 2019/20.*

7 *Liverpool became only the seventh team, and first from Britain, to hold the European Cup, UEFA Super Cup, FIFA World Club title and domestic league title at the same time, following Porto, Ajax, Juventus, Real Madrid, Barcelona and Bayern Munich.*

14 *Different nationalities represented by the 24 players used on the way to the title. In 1989/90 the Reds used 21 players who represented eight nations.*

38 *Bookings collected on their way to the title as the Reds also won the Premier League's Fair Play title for the fourth consecutive season.*

29.41 *Percentage of goalscoring assists provided by full-backs Trent Alexander-Arnold (13) Andy Robertson (12) on the way to the Premier League crown.*

346 *Days that Liverpool topped the Premier League table out of the marathon campaign's total of 353 days. Manchester City led the way for those other seven days.*

31 *Games completed when the Reds were confirmed as champions – the earliest any team has taken the title.*

17 *Different scorers throughout the league campaign, equalling a club record set in 1911/12 and matched in 2015/16. Mo Salah (19) and Sadio Mane (18) were the top scorers with Salah's 132 shots being the most by any player in the league.*

14.38 *Percentage of their 591 shots that the Reds converted into goals, the highest rate of any team in the Premier League.*

5 *The number of VAR checks on Liverpool 'goals' during the debut season of the technology. Four were ruled out while the other was allowed to stand and settled the home game against Wolves.*





Photo: Darcy McKellar (LMA)

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

The boss tells the club website about personal accolades and the joy of Melwood



You wouldn't think there'd be many Liverpool FC recipients of something called the Sir Alex Ferguson Trophy, but the former Manchester United manager was genuinely delighted when his eponymous award went to Jürgen Klopp. It meant the Reds boss had been named as the League Managers Association manager of the year.

It was announced live on Sky Sports on Monday 27 July, with Sir Alex revealing with a smile that Klopp had rung him at three in the morning after Liverpool officially lifted the Premier League!

He graciously added: "Congratulations Jürgen! You have done an absolutely fantastic job. You thoroughly deserve to be named LMA Manager of the Year 2019/2020.

"Your personality runs right through the whole of your club and the performance level of you and your team has been outstanding."

Inaugurated in its current guise in 1993, the award is voted for by professional managers and awarded to "the manager who, in their opinion, has made the greatest use of the resources available to them in the current season". It can be presented to any boss across all of English football's top four divisions, the FA Women's Super League or Women's Championship.

Crafted by a team of expert silversmiths, the beautiful trophy has art-deco styling, stands 60cm tall, weighs 8.2kg and is handcrafted from 4kgs of sterling silver. Upon its base are inscribed the names of all the previous winners.

Klopp, who was last year inducted into the LMA's Hall of Fame and is the reigning Best FIFA Men's Coach, follows 2018/19 manager of the year Chris Wilder, with Brendan Rodgers a previous LFC winner in 2013/14.

Also honoured in their respective divisions were newly-promoted managers Marcelo Bielsa (of Leeds United), Mark Robins (Coventry City), David Artell (Crewe Alexandra) and Gemma Davies (Aston Villa). Emma Hayes of Chelsea won the Barclays Women's Super League award which had been announced earlier in July.

Immediately afterwards Jürgen spoke to Sam Williams from Liverpool FC's official website, declaring he was "absolutely delighted to get this wonderful trophy.

"I had already the opportunity to have a look who won it before and there are obviously a lot of big, big Liverpool names involved. Bill Shankly, I think, Bob Paisley, Joe Fagan, Kenny [Dalglish] – it looks like he's all over the trophy! Brendan [Rodgers] won it, well-deserved.

"And Sir Alex Ferguson – and I know it's not 100 per cent appropriate as a Liverpool manager – but I admire him. He was the first British manager I met and we had breakfast together. It was long ago and I'm not sure if he remembers it still, but I remember it forever because it was for me in this moment like meeting the Pope!

"It was absolutely great and from the first second we really clicked and I wouldn't have thought in that moment that one



day I would hold the trophy in my hands, which is named after him.

"But I have to say thank-you to a lot of people. Sometimes it sounds like we have to say it, but it's easy to say in my case: I am here on behalf of my coaches.

"I said it a lot of times that I'm okay as a manager, but they make me – they make us – a really special bunch of football brains and I love to work with them together. To work together with Pep Lijnders, Peter Krawietz, John Achterberg, Vitor Matos and Jack Robinson, it's a pleasure.

"I could carry on with the list forever because we have so many great people here who made it happen that this year we won the title, and I only got this trophy because of that, I know. My players, all the people that I work together with, I take this and I love it for all of us together.

"A very special season with a very special award in the end. Thank you – I am really honoured to get it."

There were further words from LMA dignitaries including chairman Howard Wilkinson, who led Leeds United to the top-flight title back in 1992. He said: "We are delighted to be recognising Jürgen's achievements at the end of this extraordinary season.

"The trophy has been presented to a man with an excellent track-record who quite rightfully takes his place amongst the iconic previous award-winners. Jürgen has lived up to his



reputation as an exceptional coach in the game and has created an outstanding team to secure Liverpool's first top-flight triumph for 30 years."

LMA chief-executive Richard Bevan added that "Jürgen's warmth, authenticity and inclusive leadership style has endeared him to everyone in the English game since he arrived at Liverpool in 2015 and it is a great privilege for us to call him a valued member of the association."

As the party streamers settled, Klopp spoke again to the LFC official website, this time from his team's historic training headquarters.

He told writer James Carroll that the key to Liverpool's Premier League triumph was the positive atmosphere cultivated at Melwood.

"Without that atmosphere, it would not happen – that's the best description. I don't think it is coincidence that for two years we have made [special group] photos with all the staff of Melwood and in these two years, we've started winning things.

"Now people could ask, and rightly so, why didn't you do that from the first day when you came in? That's the problem!"

The boss continued: "I don't know exactly how many days a season is, but it is long and we spend a lot of time together. On the pitch is only one-and-a-half or two hours a day; all the rest of the time we are more or less in this building together with these people.

"How can you have the energy for going again and again with all the setbacks you have? I don't mean losing a final. Injured players is always a problem but it's always the wrong player on top of that.

It's like, if you have four players for one position, none of them are injured. If you have two for one, both are injured. How can you keep the energy?

"It only works because we all give energy to each other.

"You go into the canteen [here] and it is like the happy place. Since I am in, I never experienced a bad mood in that area. And since Mona [Nemmer] is in charge, it is not only not a bad mood, it is a sensational mood. Everything in there is like they are flying for us. That's only an example."

Klopp went on to stress the relationship between his assistant-manager Pep Lijnders and the groundstaff, calling their contribution "unbelievably important," and described the canteen staff Carol and Caroline as "the soul of all of this.

"When we have the Christmas parties, everybody is there from



Melwood: the cleaners, the gate guys, the security, they are all there and that makes this atmosphere.

"I personally want to have a workplace like this because I spend too much time here for getting up in the morning and thinking: Melwood again! That's why we – all together – create this atmosphere.

"We had a lot of good ideas in the last few years to create a special atmosphere and now we have it. Now everybody coming in needs to be part of it but also wants to be part of it and they are open-armed, all of them."

The manager cited the example of Takumi Minamino, who signed from RB Salzburg at the start of the year, having impressed against Klopp's Liverpool in the Champions League group stages earlier in the season.

"He came at the most difficult time, he was in for a few weeks and then lockdown happened. Sitting alone in a flat in Liverpool, that's really not nice and I really felt for him – that's why we let him go home for a few weeks, and the same with Divock.

"The others stayed here and had food delivered every day. Mona created a food-delivery service – it was unbelievable. Out of nothing, all of a sudden it was there. We needed it and Mona was doing it.

"All these things are so important and the boys appreciate it a lot, but they will really appreciate it in the moment when they are not here anymore because they will realise how it is out there in the world and not everywhere is as perfect as it is here."

Lastly Jürgen recalled the scenes at the end of the final home game against Chelsea when the Premier League trophy was officially presented to his players.

"We created a really, really close relationship over the years. The relationship is clear – I like them [the players] more than they like me! Because I have to make hard decisions, that's how it is. There are things I don't like to do but I have to do. So for me, seeing them like this means absolutely everything.

"It is the same to see my family that happy. When I met my wife and my sons after the game, they were completely...they lost it kind of! They were so happy.

"On the night Chelsea won against City, that night they were completely going nuts. And the boys [players] went nuts here. That's really something.

"These pictures which I have in my mind I will never forget. I have still the pictures of the Dortmund moments in my mind and it is very special. My coaches jumped in the pool – thank God I was not there!

"They are such nice pictures and it is my fuel, if you want, my petrol, that I get over the years, that I can keep for a long time."



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**WE ARE LIVERPOOL.
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PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Jordan Henderson dedicated his FWA award to the team, and he was equally gracious in his programme notes for the season's final home game

Sir Stanley Matthews was the first recipient of the Football Writers' Association footballer of the year award, way back in 1948. In the years since it's been won by Liverpool greats like Ian Callaghan, Kevin Keegan, Emlyn Hughes, Kenny Dalglish (twice), Terry McDermott, Ian Rush, John Barnes (twice), Steve Nicol, Steven Gerrard, Luis Suarez and most recently Mo Salah in 2018.

Now we can add Jordan Henderson to that list. Captain of the reigning Premier League champions, lifter of the Champions League trophy, UEFA Super Cup and FIFA Club World Cup too. Driving force on the pitch. All-round excellent human being off it.

Jordan saw off competition from Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne and Manchester United's Marcus Rashford as well as his own team-mates Virgil Van Dijk and Sadio Mane to claim what is the oldest individual award of its kind in the world.

Two other Liverpool players, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Alisson Becker, also received votes as the Reds dominated the voting. But it was the skipper who was the clear winner, landing more than a quarter of the votes.

Upon receiving the accolade he said: "You only have to look at the past winners of it, a number of whom I've been blessed to play with here at Liverpool, like Stevie, Luis and Mo, to know how prestigious it is.

"But as grateful as I am I don't feel like I can accept this on my own. I don't feel like anything I've achieved this season or in fact during my whole career has been done on my own. I owe a lot to so many different people but none more so than my current team-mates who have just been incredible and deserve this every bit as much as I do.

"We've only achieved what we've achieved because every single member of our squad has been brilliant. And not just in matches, not just in producing the moments that make the headlines and the back-pages, but every day in training."

Like the manager, Jordan made a point of mentioning the positive vibe at the training-ground: "The players who've started the most games for us this season have been as good as they have been because of our culture and our environment at Melwood. No one individual is responsible for that – it's a collective effort and that's how I view accepting this honour.

"I accept it on behalf of this whole squad because without them I'm not in a position to be receiving this honour. These lads have made me a better player, a better leader and a better person."

FWA chair Carrie Brown made the following statement: "Leadership is intangible and often unquantifiable unless it is inarguable. Jordan Henderson is both the ultimate professional and now a *bona fide* Liverpool legend.





"Jordan is a player his team-mates look to on the pitch and whom his rivals look up to off it. The voting criteria for the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year is one who leads by precept and example and in this country's darkest moment, Jordan, unprompted, personally rallied club captains to establish #PlayersTogether.

"Millions of pounds have been raised for the NHS and #PlayersTogether is now an established collective power-base for players to engage in campaigns, none more so evident in the ongoing and powerful anti-racism #BlackLivesMatter campaign.

"He is a truly worthy winner of our award."

There was this tribute too from England manager Gareth Southgate: "Jordan is the epitome of selfless commitment to the team and so it's extra-special that he is being personally recognised for the way he's played, led his club and role-modelled off the field to help wider society. I'm delighted for him and his family."

Typically Henderson was eager to turn up in person and show his appreciation when a huge new mural of him was unveiled near the stadium along Anfield Road, commissioned by *Redmen TV* and opposite the Trent Alexander-Arnold street-art commissioned by *The Anfield Wrap* at the start of the 2019/20 season.

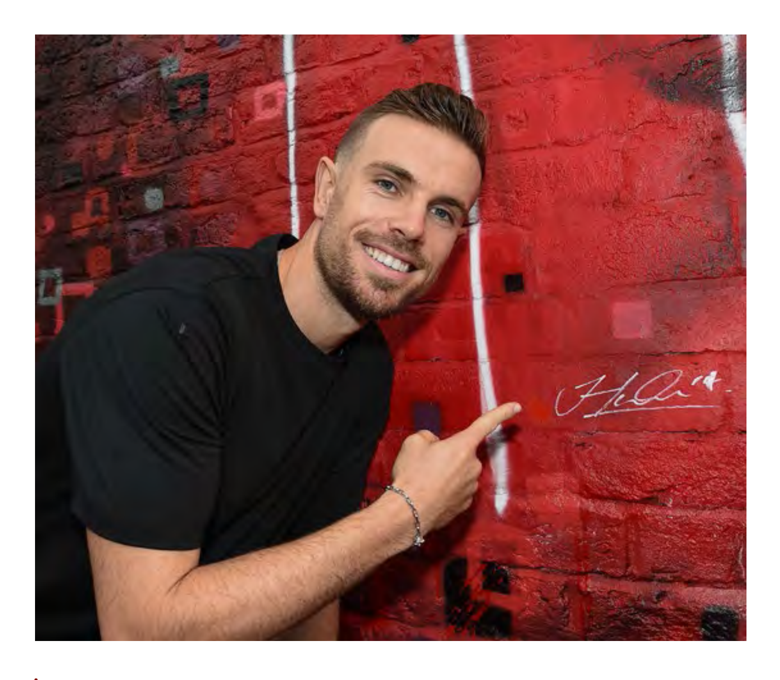
Three days earlier these were a few of the sentiments he'd expressed in his matchday programme notes for the final home fixture of the campaign, against Chelsea...

"I've been asked many times since we were confirmed as Premier League champions to sum up how I feel and I'm not too proud to admit I don't think I've produced a good answer yet...

"I think now I can find the right word: gratitude. There are so many different people responsible when a team is successful and as players we are privileged to attract the most attention, the most praise and the biggest rewards. But behind the team there are so many different individuals and groups who make a side successful.

"At Liverpool every single player in our dressing-room recognises how fortunate we are to have the best in the world looking out for us and after us – and on a night like tonight it's important to express that appreciation.

"The supporters, of course, are a huge factor. Without them this club isn't what it is. Speak to anyone in the world about Liverpool Football Club and the conversation always comes back to the passion and emotion around the club – and that's entirely down to our fans...



"The other support network we have is the staff who work for this club, specifically the guys at Melwood but also those we don't get to see as often. A club as big as Liverpool can only operate successfully if every employee performs to their highest level. That's what we have here, off the pitch as much as on...

"Unfortunately circumstance means that we don't get to meet everyone whom we can proudly call colleagues – but it doesn't mean we don't know about the contribution and recognise the significance of it.

"The staff at Melwood, of course, we do know personally – and on behalf of all the players I want to take this chance to tell them they mean everything to us. It is no exaggeration to say that without these people the team would not be what it is."

Jordan went on to thank his family – "the biggest blessing" – for their love, support and understanding, and his manager Jürgen Klopp. "If you think as supporters you appreciate what he has done for this club, you can multiply that by a hundred for the team.

"He is our leader – he has set the tone for all of this from the day we walked in."




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CHAMPIONS 5
CHELSEA 3

Eight goals, non-stop entertainment and a few feisty moments – despite the lack of fans this was a game worthy of such a special occasion →




5
17
15

"We have enjoyed a wonderful season and it is important we finish it in a manner fitting of the achievement," wrote Jürgen Klopp in his Liverpool v Chelsea matchday programme notes.

The Liverpool boss possibly wasn't expecting a 5-3 win – not since beating Stoke City 5-3 in April 1976 had the Reds won by that scoreline at Anfield – but he certainly saw his team playing football befitting of Premier League champions.

With a specially-constructed podium on the Kop and the prospect of Jordan Henderson becoming the first Liverpool captain to lift the Premier League trophy, there was inevitably more focus on the post-match celebrations than the game itself. But it was an absolute cracker.

After a cagey opening 20 minutes in which both sides probed each other like a couple of big cats stalking gazelle in the Serengeti, midfield man Naby Keita exploded into life.

The Guinea international had already tricked Cesar Azpilicueta with one outrageous turn and dribble, but in the 23rd minute he won possession, touched the ball forward and unleashed a howitzer of a shot that crashed into the net off the underside of the crossbar.

Kepa Arrizabalaga didn't get near it, and the same could be said about Trent Alexander-Arnold's 38th-minute free-kick. Whether



Sadio Mane had been fouled by Mateo Kovacic or not sparked some debate between the two benches, but there was no disputing the quality of Alexander-Arnold's strike.

Just like at Stamford Bridge in September, although from at least five yards further out, the Reds right-back whipped a free-kick into




ARRIZABALAGA
1



Arrizabalaga's top-left corner. The Chelsea goalie didn't even dive.

It was 3-0 two minutes before half-time. Jorginho appeared to handball Andy Robertson's corner. But as Mo Salah appealed for a penalty he also flicked the ball to Gini Wijnaldum, who volleyed it into the roof of the net for Liverpool's 50th home Premier League goal of the season.

Frank Lampard's men looked deflated but when Olivier Giroud slid in to make it 3-1, after Alisson had produced a brilliant one-handed save to deny Willian, the visitors had hope. Little did they know Liverpool's no9 was about to end his Anfield goal-drought.

Bobby Firmino hadn't scored a Premier League goal at Anfield all season, although even Gary Neville thought VAR shouldn't have disallowed his goal against Manchester United. So when Alexander-Arnold curled a 55th-minute cross into the box and Firmino headed home, the cheer from the Liverpool bench was so loud you'd have sworn the Main Stand had fans in it.

Firmino celebrated with a trademark mid-air kung-fu kick, but the arrival of substitute Christian Pulisic perked Chelsea up. In the space of 12 minutes the ex-Borussia Dortmund forward created a goal for Tammy Abraham, missed a golden opportunity and found the net to make it 4-3.

The last time eight goals were scored in a league game at Anfield was a 4-4 draw with Arsenal in 2009, but this was Liverpool's night with their fifth goal straight from the book of classic Klopp counter-attacks.

Robertson headed a corner clear at the near-post, Alexander-Arnold nodded it to Curtis Jones, who found Mane in space on the

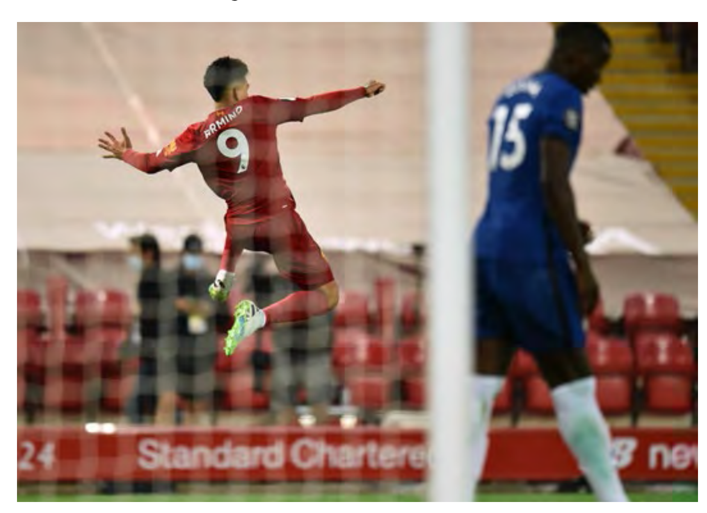
left. He looked up and saw Robertson had made a full-pelt diagonal run across the pitch. It was like Liverpool had two Andy Robbos on the pitch.

Mane sent Robertson away, he charged past Jorginho and sent in a low cross that Jones let run behind him to fellow substitute Alexander Oxlade-Chamberlain, who guided a first-time shot with his instep into the net.

Five-three and a goal of champions.

It was a glorious goal to end a glorious Anfield campaign in which the Redmen won 18 and drew one of their 19 home league games to equal the Premier League record for most points (55) and set a new club record of three consecutive seasons undefeated at home.

They also picked up a big silver trophy with a golden crown upon it afterwards, but we might have mentioned that elsewhere...






BLACK
LIVES
MATTER
WU
Western


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THE LONG GOODBYE: LOVREN

The Croatian international always gave everything for the Reds' cause and he leaves Anfield after six years on top of the world

The first Croatian to win the Premier League. A Champions League winner. One of only five Liverpool players to play in a World Cup final. And he never lost a Merseyside derby.

Dejan Lovren's Liverpool FC career had both ups and downs, but if you'd offered him the above when he was signed from Southampton in the summer of 2014 then he wouldn't have complained.

After six seasons as a Red, in which he made 185 appearances, the 31-year-old centre-half has signed for Zenit St Petersburg.

"All these six years, it was emotional from the beginning until the end," he told LFCTV. "I was feeling happy winning the Premier League with the team. On the other hand I was feeling sad I'm leaving a big, big club with so many memories in my heart which I will keep forever. But I can be proud of everything I achieved with the club.

"I came here like a boy at 24, 25 with hopes and dreams to achieve something big at the club. I always said to myself: I need to bring something back home and bring people happiness. At the end I can say we made it together. That was a big journey for me that I will always carry forever in my heart."

Lovren arrived from St Mary's after an excellent first season as a Premier League player. Previously with Lyon, he made 31 appearances for the Saints and one of his two goals gave Southampton a 1-0 win at Anfield – a defeat which did Liverpool's title-challenge no favours.

It was felt that the 50 goals Liverpool conceded in 2013/14 undid their title challenge and former Reds defender Jamie Carragher had high expectations of Lovren when he joined Brendan Rodgers' side, touting him as a potential future captain.

"I think if Lovren establishes himself in the team and became a top player by showing the same form he has at Southampton for Liverpool, then in the next few years, when Stevie does decide to call it day, he will be in contention. You look at him and he has the potential to make a big powerful impact at the back and that's what Liverpool need."

Jordan Henderson, of course, succeeded Steven Gerrard as Liverpool captain, but Dejan did wear the armband twice. "It was a dream-come-true," he said after skippering the Reds to a thrilling 4-3 victory against Manchester City at Anfield in January 2018.

"It was something I will never forget in my life. Maybe only once I will wear it, but that's enough. It's a great honour to represent a club like Liverpool."

He would wear the armband once more, during his penultimate start for the Redmen at Shrewsbury Town in the FA Cup earlier this season.

Lovren's first goal for the club was a 90th-minute winner against Swansea City in the League Cup at Anfield in October 2014. If that was a high point of his first year, missing the spot-kick that saw the Reds knocked out of the Europa League by Besiktas on penalties at the Ataturk Stadium was a low.

Jürgen Klopp's arrival as Liverpool manager was a significant moment for Lovren. He remained a regular starter – making 39 appearances in season 2015/16 compared to 38 the year before – but played more often as the right-sided centre-back, whereas under Rodgers he'd largely been on the left. There was also a shift in mentality in the dressing-room.

"This is what was keeping us motivated from that moment when Klopp came," recalled Lovren. "He said: 'Guys, we will also have bad moments, but don't put your head down, put it high up and be proud, however you played. But give everything on the pitch'. And that was important for us from day one.

"Supporters recognise that. There will never be perfect days, but when you give everything on the pitch you can always hold your head up high.

"From my perspective, without Klopp it wouldn't be the same. We can all agree with that. He changed our mentality, he changed our work-ethic, he changed a lot. Not just football-wise – he also changed things around the club, he got the belief from the supporters and even in bad moments fans were sticking around always. It's great to see that.

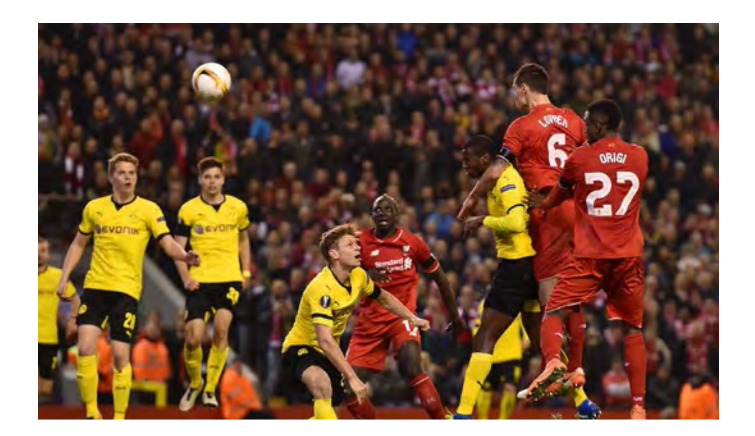
"I just cannot thank Jürgen enough for his support. He supported me not just in football, he supported me around my personal life and I will never forget



I came here like a boy with hopes and dreams, and at the end I can say it was a big journey that we made together


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L.F.C.
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LOVREN
6



That goal against Dortmund was something that fans still mention to me, I will never forget it for the rest of my life

that. I had many problems and only he knew the problems.

"He was like a friend for me, like a dad, who I could come to and say all the problems. One day, we will look back and we can laugh all together and share good memories. This is what we'll do."

Lovren scored at least once in each of his six seasons at Liverpool, netting eight goals in total. The second of those goals, to complete a stunning 4-3 comeback against Borussia Dortmund in the Europa League, will forever remain part of Anfield folklore.

"It is something that many fans, supporters and people in the club still mention to me and it is something I will never forget for the rest of my life. It was a special game because of everything that already happened in it, so to score in the last minute to put us through to the semi-final was amazing.

"I was just in the right place at the right time and when I scored I felt, in that moment, powerful. I felt like I could hold the world.

"It's always special when you have a difficult game and you win it in the last moment. The atmosphere is almost indescribable. It makes you want to be at a football club like this and play in those big games. You have those nights in your memory for the rest of your life."

Goals in 2-1 and 4-2 wins at Chelsea and Crystal Palace followed in 2016/17 as the Reds qualified for the Champions League, reaching the final in Kiev at the first attempt.

Lovren started 14 of Liverpool's 15 Champions League games in 2017/18. He was outstanding in both legs of the 5-1 aggregate quarter-final victory against Manchester City and was the Reds' best player in the final against Real Madrid, providing the assist for Sadio Mane's goal before Gareth Bale won it for the Spaniards.

"It was definitely a big disappointment, but I'm a guy who will always dig deeper after a bad thing, even if somebody tells me you cannot do it, I will try to do it. This is the mentality of the team also – 'we didn't do it the first time, but we'll have another year to prove everyone wrong'. That's the great winning mentality of this club and this team. I'm leaving a big club and I'm proud of that."

A persistent stomach injury carried for years flared up during the 2018 World Cup as Croatia were surprise finalists, finishing as runner-up to France. It cost Dejan his place in the Liverpool team and, with the exception of stints in December 2018 and November 2019, he started far less regularly.

He was, however, a Champions League winner in June 2019 as an unused substitute in Madrid, and this season became Croatia's first-ever Premier League winner, appearing in 10 of Liverpool's matches and creating Divock Origi's second goal in the 5-2 win against Everton.

"It was always a dream to come here and leave some footsteps. This is what I said also in the beginning when I arrived, I didn't come here just to play games, I'm here to leave some footsteps and to be recognised. Even 10, 15, 20 years later, people will still remember the Premier League, the season where everything was won. It's fantastic to be just a part of this club and I will carry all these moments forever.

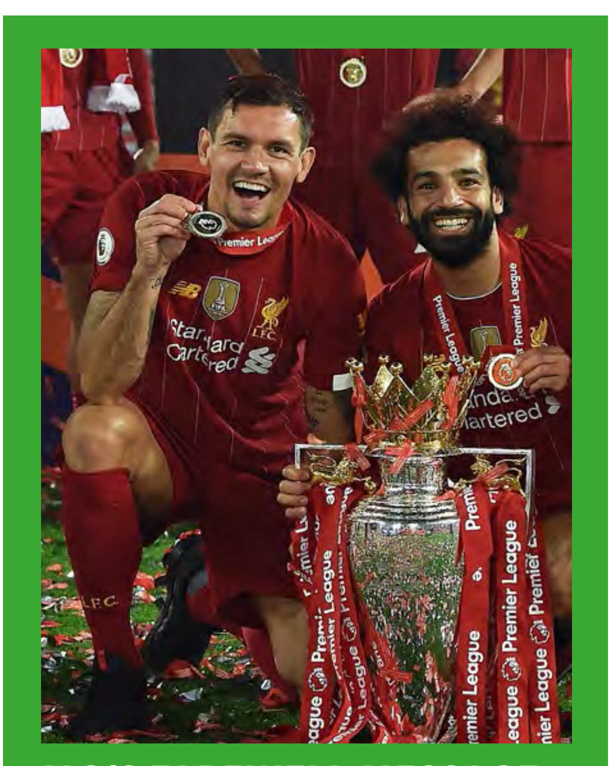
"It's a good moment to go and to look back without any regret, that was the most important thing for me. To give everything and that supporters can say I gave 100 per cent for this club, this means more than anything to me."

Only one question remains. "Who is now the best friend of Mo?" said Klopp. "Because they were really real, real 'bezzies'. They were really close and that's the thing, we will miss him."

Mo Salah paid tribute to his mate, and the feeling is mutual. "I don't want to show too many emotions because I've already been crying before the last game," said Lovren. "They saw that I felt the emotions. Especially also leaving Mo, my good friend.

"It was something special, but like I always said, it's just the beginning of a big friendship, even when we'll be far apart.

"He knows he can always call me for whatever reason, I'm always here for him."



MO'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

"I don't know how to say, my friend. You don't know my feeling right now. We're really going to miss you a lot, especially me. You've been an unbelievable player and a great friend for me. We're going to miss you a lot. I miss you a lot, I love you so much. You've been fantastic outside the field and inside the field. So, thank you for everything you did for the club, thank you for everything you did for me. I wish you all the best in the future and I wish you to have a great career as well, enjoying the new club with your family. Thank you very much and see you soon."



THE LONG GOODBYE: LALLANA

On his day he was just world-class, and he'll be missed by team-mates and fans alike as he begins a new chapter at Brighton & Hove Albion

My six years have gone in a flash," said a tearful Adam Lallana in a farewell interview with LFCTV. "My two kids have grown up in Liverpool, it's all they know. I've not just built friends and team-mates here, I've built friends that I see as family forever and that's where the sadness comes from.

"I'm sad about leaving, because it's the right time for me to leave. I'm desperate for a new challenge, I'm desperate to play a bit more. I still feel like I've got two or three years left at the top.

"I'm still going to be in communication with the majority of the boys and the boss, Carole and Caroline the sweet dinner-ladies that we've got here that have looked after me for the past six years. There are good and bad sides of being a footballer and moving away, but it's never nice to say goodbye, is it really?"

A few days earlier, skipper Jordan Henderson had paid an equally emotional tribute to Lallana – who joined the Reds from Southampton in the summer of 2014, after playing for England in the World Cup – in the Liverpool versus Chelsea matchday programme.

"Adam is one of my best mates – in life not just in football," he wrote. "Adam is one of the best players I have ever shared a pitch with. Adam is one of the best professionals I have ever shared a pitch with. He is one of the best people I have shared a dressing-room with.

"His contribution to where we are now cannot be understated. League titles aren't won in just one season – they are a journey. Adam Lallana set standards the rest of us worked to reach and as a result this team and club drove forward. No one will miss him more than me."

Henderson has since teased Lallana for copying him by taking the no14 shirt, after completing a move to Brighton & Hove Albion, and isn't the only one who will miss the attacking midfielder.

"He is one of the most influential players on the training quality I have ever had in my life," said Jürgen Klopp. "He is an incredible professional. So he is one of the most important players of the time since I am here, so I wish him only the best for the future."

Adam scored six goals in 41 games in season 2014/15, his first as a Liverpool player, but looks back on it as being a difficult year.

"I've had this conversation in the last couple of weeks speaking about memories with my dad, and that first season was so tough. Especially coming off the back of what happened the year before and the expectations were so high that season.

"We obviously lost Suarez and Sturridge was injured and I think we had seven or eight new signings and everyone found it difficult to settle. We all had to kind of ride the wave."

In October 2015, Brendan Rodgers departed and Klopp was appointed as LFC manager. Lallana immediately became a key member of his team with his energy, work-ethic, stamina, creativity and goal-threat precisely what Liverpool's new boss was looking for in midfield.

Lallana made 49 appearances in season 2015/16, scoring seven goals and contributing eight assists. His most memorable goal was a 95th-minute volley to earn a 5-4 win away to Norwich City when Klopp's glasses were famously broken by Christian Benteke amid wild celebrations. But Adam also scored in the 3-0 Europa League semi-final win against Villarreal at Anfield to send the Reds to Basel to play Sevilla in the final.

"Looking back now, I didn't realise how much of a success that would have been winning that Europa League. The manager's first year...I mean if you look at the squad it was kind of a young, inexperienced squad and the manager hadn't spent much in the transfer market."

Liverpool also lost the League Cup final to Manchester City on penalties that season. Lallana played a part in Philippe Coutinho's goal but was one three LFC players to see his spot-kick saved. He does, however, hold the unusual club record of having scored the most goals (6) in penalty shoot-outs.

I'm sad about leaving, but it's the right time for me to leave. I'm desperate for a new challenge, I'm desperate to play a bit more. But it's never nice to say goodbye is it?



His best goalscoring return came in 2016/17 when his eight goals included on at Arsenal on the opening day of the season, and Liverpool's last goal of the campaign, at home to Middlesbrough, to clinch Champions League qualification. "That was a really enjoyable year and to get back into the Champions League was a huge success at that point."

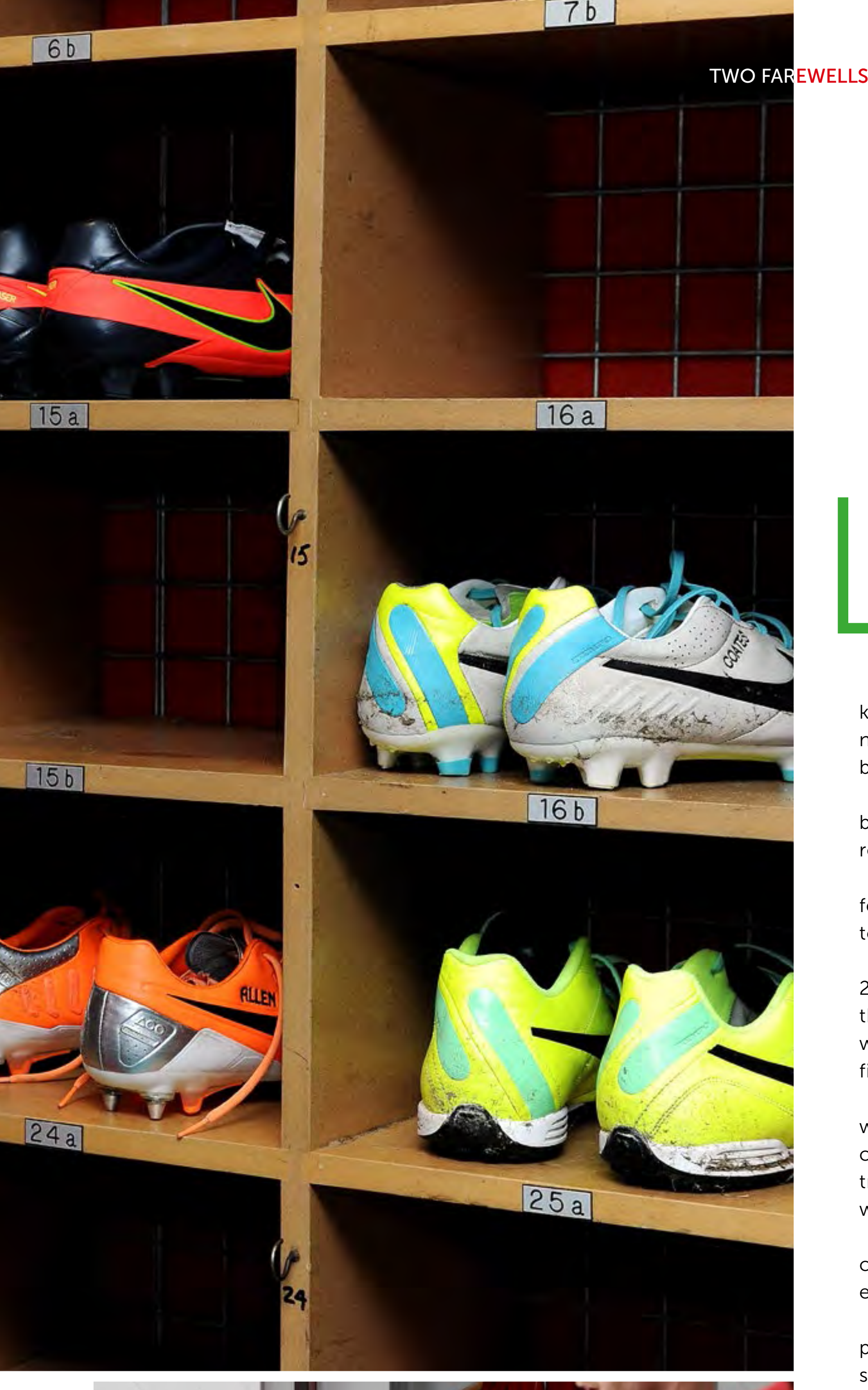
It was during that season, in a 2-2 draw at home to West Ham in which he scored, that Lallana set a new Premier League record for the most distance covered, running 13.7km in total.

But a thigh injury suffered against Atletico Madrid in the Audi Cup final in Munich, during Liverpool's 2017/18 pre-season preparations, was a serious setback. He didn't start again until New Year's Day 2018 and never regained a regular place in Klopp's side.

He came on for the injured Mo Salah in the 2018 Champions League final defeat to Real Madrid in Kiev, and 12 months later became a European champion as an unused substitute in Liverpool's 2-0 success against Spurs in Madrid.

"After Kiev it was ultra-disappointing, but the way we bounced back and won it in Madrid was remarkable, but no surprise, because of the group of men we've got in our dressing-room.

"When we won it, it's a feeling that is hard to describe really. You grow up thinking about the Champions League, winning it. In 2005 everyone knows exactly where they were when they were watching that game and when Liverpool came back, so to





From when I came to the club and now to when I'm leaving, I feel it has progressed and I feel privileged and honoured to be a small part, but definitely a part, of that

kind of be a part of the team to achieve it again, and then the next season go and do what we've done this season, it's hard to believe really.

"It's something I'm immensely proud of and feel a part of, because I do understand that although I've not played a huge role in the last couple of years I try to look at the bigger picture.

"From when I came to the club and now to when I'm leaving, I feel the club has progressed and I feel privileged and honoured to be a small part, but definitely a part, of that."

Lallana made 15 and 16 appearances in seasons 2017/18 and 2018/19 respectively, but featured more often (22 appearances) this season. An unused substitute in the UEFA Super Cup final win in Istanbul, he played in both games as the Reds won their first-ever FIFA Club World Cup in Qatar.

"When you're European champions, the next aim is to be world club champions and there are not many players who can say they've won both. We gave it our all because winning trophies is like an addiction. You win one medal and then you want to win another. You just want to win more."

There was still another medal to come. Lallana's headline contribution to Liverpool's Premier League title win was his late equaliser in a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford.

But he also created Sadio Mane's winner at home to Wolves, played as a holding midfielder in the 2-1 win at Aston Villa, started the 5-2 win against Everton and came on in several tight games to provide experience.

The last of his 178 appearances for the Reds came in the 2-1 win against Bournemouth in March and having his family inside Anfield to see him lift the Premier League trophy, following the 5-3 victory against Chelsea, clearly meant a lot.

"I don't think people realise how important and such a cherished moment that will be. To have my mum and dad, wife and kids there at the game to be able to see me lift the trophy... you just can't put anything against that."

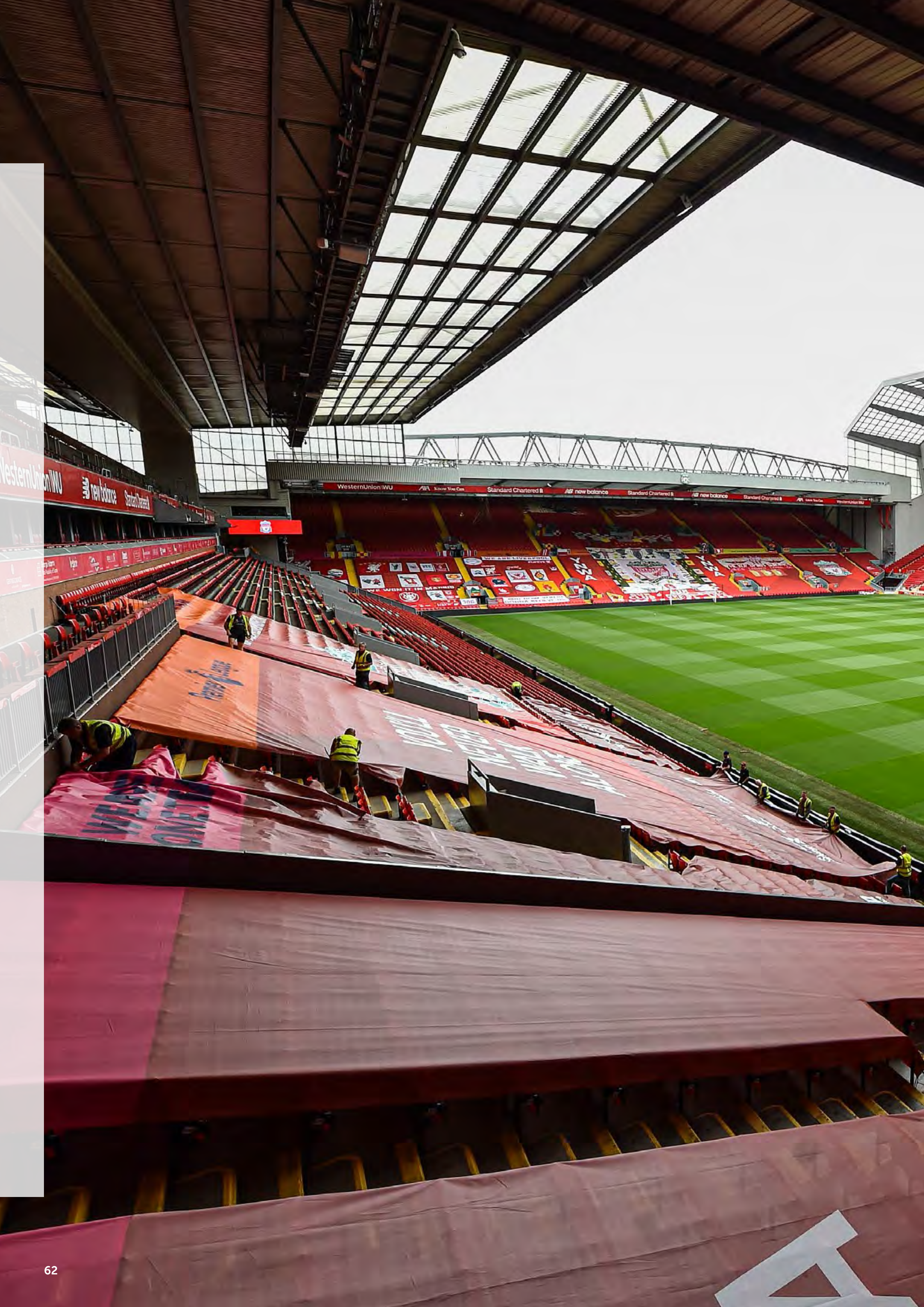
Now aged 32, Adam Lallana begins a new career on the South Coast with Brighton after ending his six years with Liverpool as a European champion, world champion and Premier League champion. It still hasn't all quite sunk in.

"I think the main thing that we've achieved in the last six years is becoming winners and that's been the icing on the cake in the last 12 months.

"I think I've lost three finals here, they were all one after the other, so to be leaving having won four trophies is somewhat remarkable really, I still can't believe it.

"So, I think it's kind of a fitting time to leave and end my chapter here. There's been plenty of highs but also plenty of lows as well that have been difficult.

"So to leave with the trophies and with the amazing memories, with so many friends as well that I'd probably class as family, makes it special and fitting I think."


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THE KOP SPIRIT SURVIVES

That was what one of the banners said, and that was how everyone felt when they saw the famous end adorned in red-and-white when football resumed



WE ARE ONE
THE KOP SPIRIT
LEGACY
EXIT
HOMEBAKED
BLOCK
104

Liverpool v Crystal Palace was the first Anfield fixture after lockdown and Reds supporters made sure there would still be a spectacular welcome for their heroes despite the empty stadium, with colourful and familiar flags and banners laid-out all over the Kop. It stayed that way until the end of the season.

In his programme notes for the Palace game manager Jürgen Klopp had this message for the supporters: "You are still with us today."

He went on: "We know what our football club and this group of players in particular means to you. We know the joy it brings. We know you kick every ball and shout still as if you were in the middle of the Kop.

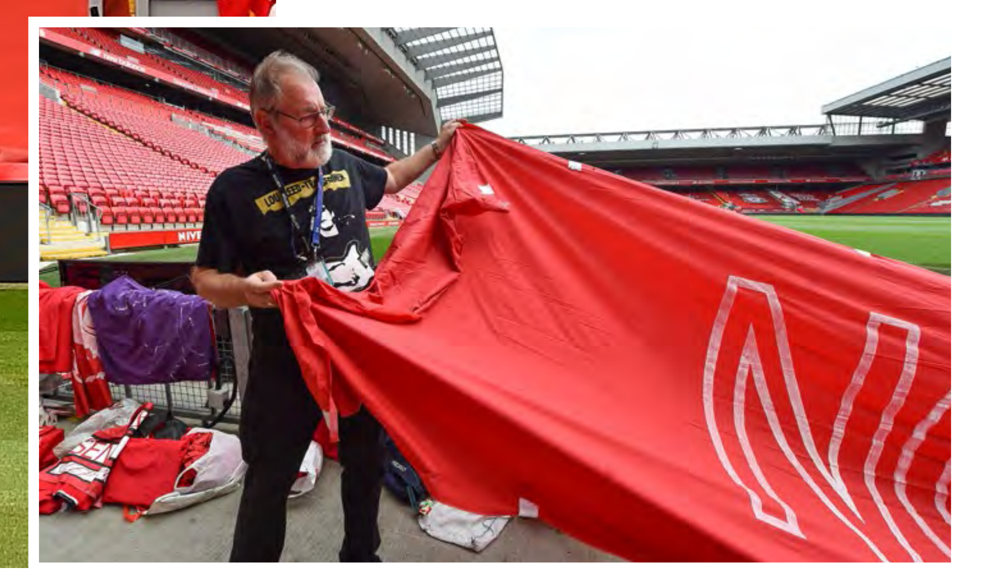
"We know the impact of what we do now will be as big as anything we have ever done, because you are making sacrifices for us by staying in your homes.

"We may be apart physically, but we are always together."

The Kop looked so spectacular thanks to the dedication of fan group Spion Kop 1906 and their friends. The club's TV channel LFCTV made a short film of them at work with this special message from the boss: "When I sit in my spot in the stadium before the game starts, I always look to the Kop and it's always incredible because we have all these common experiences and memories.







"Thank you very much to everybody who puts so much soul into it – it's incredible."

It was always going to be strange at first for the players, with full-back Trent Alexander-Arnold admitting: "In some ways it takes you back to your academy games, but even then you didn't play in an empty stadium.

"It is weird and the pitch feels a lot bigger, but these are all the things that you have to deal with and that is why we played at Anfield a couple of times before the resumption so that we knew how it would feel."

Team-mate James Milner, who must have thought he'd seen everything in his footballing career, admitted that he was "gutted for the supporters more than us as players" about clinching the title behind-closed-doors.

"That said, it is what it is and during this period so many people have made far greater sacrifices than footballers and football fans. People across society have had far bigger hardships, so perspective is important.

"It's not that the fans aren't going to be watching. I'm sure every Liverpool fan, no matter where they are in the






AXA



world, will make sure they're watching. So they'll be with us even if they're not there. We're still lifting it for them and ourselves."

His view was echoed by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, who intimated that the players could feel the presence of the fans: "Everyone has been going through a difficult time and a weird time, but from what we've seen on social media the support has still been there. As a group of players we appreciate that.

"Our fans had bigger things than us to worry about but still took time to care about what we're doing and how we're doing. That sums up how committed and passionate they are about us and the club."

What did Virgil van Dijk have to say to the fans? "You will be with us, even though you can't be at Anfield."

He continued: "The whole world has had to make sacrifices in the last three months or more but we have a strong enough connection to our fans to know they'll be with us for every kick, header, pass, shot and save.

"It's not that Liverpool fans aren't around anymore – they just have to watch from home. I think we can still make this cool if we all really give our best and we'll do that as players.

"The supporters know we feel them still."

PETER THE **GREAT**

You'll have seen Peter Carney's many flags and banners at Anfield, even if you weren't aware who was behind them. At the start of the 2019/20 season he was in the matchday programme, having previously appeared in *Mundial* magazine, and he also runs the acclaimed Soccer In The City minibus tours taking in Liverpool's footballing history and landmarks.

Perhaps Peter's most famous creations are his Hillsborough banners. The original version has been described by a cultural historian as 'unique and irreplaceable'. A second banner changes the words from 'You'll Never Walk Alone' to 'We Never Walk Alone' and includes the names of some of the survivors as well as those who were lost.

At its centre is a white Liver Bird in padded material and there are eternal flames in silk and even pockets to hold bouquets of flowers.

He also made a flag for Sean Cox – the one with which the players posed after the Champions League semi-final second leg at Roma in May 2018. More recent additions include 'Welcome To Wonderland' ("What's the keeper called?" he asks. "Think about it!") and 'Robertson: Sweeter Than Jam'.

"For me, it's about being able to express my support for the team," he says. "It's about expressing my belonging to the club, my vision for what's going on and my ideas."

Peter Hooton, lifelong Liverpool fan and member of the Spirit of Shankly group, describes him as "an artist. The Hillsborough one is the best one for me. Every name was embroidered on to it. He's recording history in a way – it's the Scouse Bayeux Tapestry.

"Peter will go down in posterity. If I wanted someone to make a banner for my funeral, it would have to be Peter Carney. He did ones for [ex-players] Tommy Lawrence and Peter Thompson recently and the families were made-up with them.

"They're magnificent. He takes his time. He knows what he's doing."




Liiiv eeerr poool Liiiv eeerr poool
WE ARE THE MEN FROM
THE ANFIELD SPION KOP
MORE
DESTINY
DELIVERED
One of our Own
1977
ROME
1978
LONDON
JUSTICE
05
ISTANBUL
1981
PARIS
1984
ROME

FRANK TALK

Frank Graceffa and his Kop-surfing super-flag made two appearances in last season's Liverpool FC matchday programme: first as the subject of the 'Big Read' feature in the issue for the Champions League group game with KRC Genk; then as part of a tribute to extra-special supporters in the 'Born and Red' fans section of the Premier League champions souvenir edition against Chelsea.

'South-ender' Frank, very much Scouse but born in Sicily, had the idea for the flag two decades ago. Back then it was a 'modest' 30ft by 30ft club crest – which had just been redesigned so Frank thought a giant tribute would be perfect. Then it simply grew and grew.

Now it's a 130ft by 80ft masterpiece, almost the height of ten double-decker buses, detailing Liverpool FC's successes down the years.

Since there were no hands to help it glide across the Kop before kick-off when football resumed in June, instead it was the centrepiece of the Kop backdrop when the Reds returned to action behind-closed-doors at Anfield.

Frank works at the King's Leadership Academy in Dingle Vale in south Liverpool and it was there that, with the help of pupils one lunchtime, he unfurled the flag for our drone photography.

A flag of this size is a constant work-in-progress. Even when Liverpool aren't winning trophies, repairs are needed to fix the inevitable wear-and-tear, and every time a change is required he takes the flag apart section-by-section before reassembling it again for matchday.

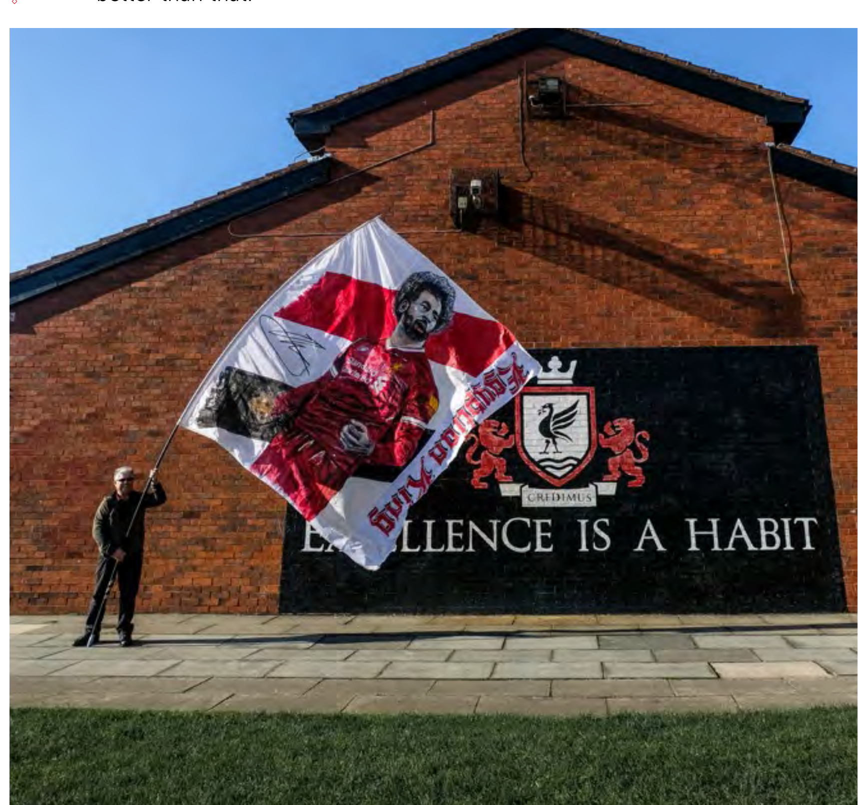
Before every home game a loyal crew of mates helps him to take the concertina-folded flag out of its substantial storage bag and send in its way. From thereon the fans do the rest, hauling it reverently across the Kop in their droves.

Away from continuous maintenance between matchdays, every year the flag has to go through rigorous fire-safety tests which means more disassembling and assembling, separating each part into its components.

Also among Frank's work: a flag for Mo Salah, one for Andy Robertson, the Hillsborough flame as well as a Ring of Fire.

Why does he do it? You only need to look around his school workshop, a shrine to Liverpool FC, for the answer. "It's a sacrifice you have to make," he says. "You have to do these things for the love of the club.

"If it's a headache, then I love having headaches because for me that means success for Liverpool Football Club. It doesn't get any better than that."




YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL
FOOTBALL CLUB
EST · 1892
OUR CLUB
OUR CREST
OUR LIFE

THERE IS SO MUCH MORE THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE

With this manager, this team and these fans, says defender Joe Gomez, this could be just the start


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On the eve of Project Restart, Joe Gomez marked the fifth anniversary of his arrival at Anfield. Five days later he received the perfect present when he was confirmed as a Premier League champion. Last month he received a tangible memento of that achievement when he collected his winner's medal in that special ceremony on the Kop following the 5-3 defeat of Chelsea.

Like the majority of his team-mates, the centre-back was not born when the Reds had previously lifted a league championship in 1990. He shows an awareness beyond his 23 years when asked whether he appreciates just how significant this title is then to Liverpool supporters.

"Sometimes I think I do, but I probably don't," he acknowledges. "It's been such a long wait. The club has such a proud history that we know it belongs at the top and so to be winning trophies like the Champions League and the Premier League is what we all want, but obviously this trophy has been a long time coming.

"I think the fact that the support's been so strong over the years – especially when we've had to be patient at times – speaks volumes for the fanbase of the club and how strong the support is.

"There's just always been that belief, I suppose, that with the manager that we have, that it would come eventually. Now that we've done it, it's obviously special to be a part of and something that we're all grateful for."

Despite being only 23, Joe is now the third longest-serving member of the club's senior playing staff (after Jordan Henderson and Divock Origi) having signed under Brendan Rodgers and Sean O'Driscoll, the latter of whom had worked with the former Charlton Athletic defender at England Under-19s level.

The Reds' no12 is perfectly-placed then to assess the changes that have taken place since the arrival of Jürgen Klopp and he is candid about the part played by the League Manager Association's 2019/20 manager of the year in masterminding Liverpool's route to success.



"I can't speak highly enough of him," he says. "Irrespective of what's happened, if you ask any member of the team what they think of him as a manager, they will say that they hold him in such high regard.

"Of course that's because of what he's done with the team but also because of what he's like as a person. How he is off the pitch is also key to what makes everyone have so much desire to want to play for him and to strive to keep improving.

"We all appreciate how lucky we are to learn from him on a daily basis. He's created that real belief across the whole city among Liverpool supporters and that's the key, I think: the atmosphere that he's created not just in the team at the training ground but among Liverpool supporters across the whole city.

"That is what has changed massively since he's come in and it's something that's been incredible to witness and to watch the change over time.

THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE BELIEF, I SUPPOSE, THAT WITH THE MANAGER WE HAVE, IT WOULD COME EVENTUALLY. NOW THAT WE'VE WON THE TITLE, IT'S OBVIOUSLY SPECIAL AND WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR IT

"When he came he had a clear vision of what he wanted to create and it's been phenomenal. It's crazy to think that one person could create such a big impact across the whole city and that's what he's done.

"For us as individuals and as players, we've learnt so much from him. I know personally that I have grown as a person just from being around him."

Gomez has yet to make 100 league appearances across his time with Charlton and the Reds and he admits that being a European, World and Premier League champion is not something he thought he would have achieved at this stage of his career.

"Not at all. It's a bit surreal that it's been five years. I savour every season and I've enjoyed it every year. I don't take for granted being able to be part of a club like this for so long and I hope it will continue for many years.





"I'd love to be at Liverpool my whole career but, as I say, I'm not going to take for granted how much of a blessing it is to be a part of the club.

"Obviously when the opportunity to come to Liverpool arrived, I grabbed it with both hands. But I didn't assume that I could be a part of such a special group under a special manager. That's something that I'm grateful for and something that I speak to my family about.

"In football sometimes you're fortunate that things arrive and that you can be a part of something. The timing now is obviously special as it's a young team and we have such a good manager who is hopefully going to be here for years to come.

"With that in mind we have to try and stay consistent and keep achieving. I think while the chance is there as a team it's important that we are all hungry because there is so much more that we can achieve and that's what the manager has emphasised to us from the get-go.

"We've always kept that competitive edge and that's largely down to the manager – he definitely won't let us drop our standards."

While Gomez points to the timing of Klopp's entrance, he also picks out the arrival of his central defensive counterpart Virgil van Dijk in January 2018 as another key moment in his Liverpool career to date. The pair have built a strong connection on and off the field and the younger partner believes the no4 has helped take his game to another level.

"Virgil's a big inspiration for me and someone I look up to. I definitely know how fortunate I am that he came to the club when he did. I do see him as a bigger brother and he's someone that I've learnt a great deal from.

"I think it speaks for itself where he is amongst the best centre-backs in the world at the minute. In my eyes he's the number one, so to learn from him on a daily basis is something that I'm grateful for.

"He has every attribute. He's a great leader and dominant figure in the team but as a footballer, aerially, physically, technically...he covers every aspect and, for me, he can do everything needed from a centre-back.

"We have a good relationship and he's one of the people that I'm closest to in the team. I think that probably does help, having that relationship off the pitch as well as on it. That foundation off the pitch helps us communicate and understand each other.

"The art of defending is something that he knows very well and on a daily basis I'm learning how to defend and when to make certain decisions. That's something that he's had a big impact on me with. His dominance is clear. He dominates consistently and that's something that I strive to be able to achieve. He sets the standard and shows what it is to be a great centre-back and, as I say, I'm lucky to try and learn from him."

And while working with Virgil has helped him develop, Joe says practising against some of the best forwards in world football does no harm either.

"In training to come up against Bobby, Sadio and Mo is probably as difficult as it gets. We train at quite a high intensity and when it's 11 v 11 it's extremely difficult to defend against them.

"Not just them but then the likes of Divock, Taki and so many other players in our team too, its one of the toughest challenges. That problem is one of the most difficult to solve and I think that's why it's great to be at a club like Liverpool."

The Reds signed off their memorable league campaign with wins against Chelsea and Newcastle. Doing so saw them stay unbeaten at Anfield in the Premier League for a third consecutive season, register a new club record of 14 away-wins and also set an LFC best-ever points haul of 99.

Yet while there was plenty of emphasis placed on records outside the club, Gomez says it was not a major talking-point within the Reds bubble.

"Did it get spoken about? Not as much as I think people may assume. It's not the records that were directly at the front of our minds. Indirectly they probably were in that we wanted to keep a clean-sheet, win every game and get as many points as we could. But we knew that by focusing one game at a time, as we had done all season, that could result in us achieving a great points tally.

"In that sense, yes, they were a goal of ours but I don't think it was a main topic of conversation. It was just mainly about continuing to take things one game at a time.

"That's what the manager drills into us and makes the key point. The most important game is the next game and that's

VIRGIL'S A BIG INSPIRATION FOR ME AND SOMEONE I LOOK UP TO. I DO SEE HIM AS A BIGGER BROTHER AND HE'S SOMEONE THAT I'VE LEARNT A GREAT DEAL FROM





I PERSONALLY FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE STILL GOT A LOT TO LEARN AND I'M AT THE PERFECT PLACE TO DO THAT

been our mentality the whole season. We treat each game with the same attitude and that's the philosophy that we have to keep."

Gomez acknowledges the part the fans have played in their title triumph and says it was disappointing, if understandable, that they were not able to share in the trophy presentation at Anfield.

"It was very strange and obviously disappointing that we couldn't share those moments with the supporters. A lot of our success is because of our fans and ultimately, they are the reason why we do what we do. I think we are all eagerly anticipating the opportunity for them to be back in the stadium.

"It would have been a lot more special receiving the trophy in front of them. Ultimately we enjoyed every moment and will celebrate with them when things are allowed to get back to normal. They are always in our thoughts and we missed not having them there."

Twelve months ago Gomez and many of his Liverpool team-mates were preparing to start a season that would last an unprecedented 353 days. Now, following a brief period of rest and recuperation, it all starts again with the question being whether Liverpool can stay at the top.

"Every year it's getting tougher and tougher," he says. "Manchester City are the obvious rivals but there are many top teams at the moment who are all competing. We aim to keep consistent but we know it's so difficult so all we can do is focus on one game at a time. We have plenty going for us to carry on, with a young team and a great manager, but we know that there's no guarantee.

"This season we have found ways to win when we haven't performed at our best but I think next season there's probably going to be even less room for error. It's just about each game and each week. The manager continuously expects us to keep performing and play with a high intensity. We understand that responsibility and hopefully that can help to carry us forwards."

And Gomez believes there is no better environment for him and his team-mates to maintain their progress.

"Being champions is definitely a nice feeling and one that we don't take for granted. I personally feel as though I've still got a lot to learn and I'm at the perfect place to do that. All of our ambitions are to make progress, stay consistent and keep achieving year on year."

GOOD THINGS COME

Joe's totals of 28 Premier League appearances and 43 in all competitions in 2019/20 were his personal bests for Liverpool FC. They are also testimony to his character after a series of injury setbacks earlier in his career.

"I've had some ups and downs but I've definitely learnt a lot through some of those long periods where I was injured," he says.

"I learnt a lot about my body and it's important that I do everything I can off the pitch to stay available for the team and just do the best I can. It's been a great achievement for me on a personal note to be involved consistently and get a nice run of games.

"Hopefully long may it continue."

Words: William Hughes


Premier League
WU

JUST LIKE STARTING OVER





Liverpool FC Women have been busy on the training ground preparing for their return to action. The new FA Women's Championship season begins on the weekend of 5-6 September with Vicky Jepson and her squad aiming to bounce back into the top-flight at the first attempt. They have been boosted by the return of some familiar faces plus some new additions

Defender LEIGHANNE ROBE stretches the legs

Boss VICKY JEPSON hoping to lead the Reds back to the top flight

Attacker RINSOLA BABAJIDE has a new number. The England U21s international will wear the no10 jersey during the 2020/21 campaign

Denmark international AMALIE THESTRUP is one of the Reds' new signings. The centre-forward arrives from AS Roma and has also had experience in her homeland with Ballerup-Skovlunde Fodbold and Brondby. The goal-getter will wear the no9 shirt

Forward MELISSA LAWLEY is all smiles





New girls TAYLOR HINDS and AMALIE THESTRUP engage in a sprinting drill

Midfielders RACHEL FURNESS, left, and KIRSTY LINNETT

Goalkeeper RACHAEL LAWS is back with Liverpool for a second stint. She previously had a spell on loan from Sunderland and was part of the Reds squad that won the FA WSL in 2013

Full-back TAYLOR HINDS is another new addition to the Reds' ranks. The former Arsenal and Everton player is an England youth international and was a member of the Under-20s team that won bronze at the World Cup in 2018

What's On

AUG/SEPT





SHIELD ROAD

[illegible] return to competitive action on Saturday 29 August when they will be looking to add more silverware to the trophy cabinet.

Jürgen Klopp's men head to Wembley to contest the FA Community Shield against FA Cup winners Arsenal in a game which will take place a fortnight before the start of the new Premier League campaign and just ahead of the first international fixtures of 2020/21. The Reds performed well in last season's opener against Manchester City only to be edged out on penalties. This time, captain Jordan Henderson will be hoping he can shuffle his feet again soon after the final whistle before hoisting the shield aloft.

The game, to be played behind closed doors, will be Liverpool's 23rd appearance in the traditional season curtain-raiser. The Reds first contested the Shield in 1922 when they were beaten 1-0 by Herbert Chapman's Huddersfield Town on a Wednesday night at Old Trafford.

AUG/SEPT

What's On

BACK TO WORK ALREADY!



The Reds are set to return to Melwood for pre-season training on 15 August after a short period of well-deserved rest and recuperation.

The new Premier League season is scheduled to start on the weekend of 12 September with fixtures due to be released in the third week of August.

As the Reds bid to retain their title there will be the first top-flight meetings in 16 years with Leeds United, which has been dubbed the 'Canal derby' (because of the historic Leeds & Liverpool Canal), while Jürgen Klopp's side will also renew rivalries with West Bromwich Albion and Fulham. Which fixture will you look for first – the Merseyside derby, Man City, or Man United?

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

54 years since a Roger Hunt goal won the FA Charity Shield v Everton on 13 August 1966.
49 years since PA man George Sephton made his debut as the 'Voice of Anfield' on 14 August 1971.
59 years since Ian St John scored his first LFC goal on 30 August 1961.
43 years since the one and only Sir Kenny Dalglish joined Liverpool FC from Celtic on 10 August 1977.
49 years since Kevin Keegan scored on LFC debut on 14 August 1971.
16 years since Xabi Alonso and Luis Garcia joined LFC on 20 August 2004.
And 14 years since the Reds defeated Chelsea 2-1 to win the Community Shield at Cardiff on 13 August 2006... Liverpool's last success in the FA Community Shield came at the Millennium Stadium as Rafael Benitez's FA Cup winners edged out Jose Mourinho's champions.

Games between the sides during that era always carried an extra edge and the large Reds contingent among the 56,275 crowd in the Welsh capital were delighted when their side made an early breakthrough.

The Blues' big-money summer signing, Andriy Shevchenko, had almost broken through in the ninth minute before being blocked by John Arne Riise. From the resulting corner, the Norwegian left-back raced down the right before cutting inside to blast past keeper Carlo Cudicini from 25 yards. Watching from the bench was new signing and fellow left-back, Fabio Aurelio.

Liverpool had chances to build on their advantage but couldn't take them and striker Shevchenko punished them two minutes before the interval.

The £30.8 million capture from AC Milan chested down a pass from Frank Lampard and raced clear to slot a composed finish beyond keeper Pepe Reina for the equaliser.

But with man-of-the-match Momo Sissoko imposing himself on Chelsea's midfield, the Reds remained very much in the contest and they fashioned a winner with ten minutes remaining.

Substitute and proud Welshman Craig Bellamy crossed from the left and big striker Peter Crouch took advantage of poor marking to head past Cudicini.

It was Liverpool's tenth outright success in a competition they have also shared five times.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Joel Matip 29 on 8 August

Taiwo Awoniyi 23 on 12 August

Djibril Cisse 39 on 12 August

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain 27 on 15 August

Bolo Zenden 44 on 15 August

Barry Venison 56 on 16 August



Steve McMahon 59 on 20 August

Michael Thomas 53 on 24 August

Didi Hamann 47 on 27 August

Rhiannon Roberts 30 on 30 August

Alan Kennedy 66 on 31 August

Pepe Reina 38 on 31 August







“HUGE SURPRISE, I WAS BLOWN AWAY!”

Tom Green, Reading





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Last year we brought you *CH6MPIONS OF EUROPE*, the brilliant official book commemorating Liverpool's triumph in Madrid with a special scroll of honour inside for fans. This year's companion volume is all about the PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS – and once again supporters have the chance to be part of this unique piece of LFC history.

LIVERPOOL FC PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS is a gloriously evocative account of the season that saw Jürgen Klopp's mighty Reds set all sorts of new records as they claimed the title. Now available to pre-order, this commemorative hardback's 320 pages feature exclusive photography, revealing insight from Klopp and his Kop stars, and the season chronicled in full by the editorial team behind the club's monthly magazine and matchday programme. It's produced by LFC's official publishing partners, Reach Sport.

Every person who pre-orders *LIVERPOOL FC PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS* by 20 August 2020 will have the opportunity to see their name, or a name of their choice, included on the scroll of honour inside.

Simply go to the books section at reachsportshop.com, pre-order and type the name in the personalisation box.

And your chance to appear on a special scroll of honour inside







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GET WITH THE **PROGRAMME**

And there's still time to get your copy of the **Liverpool v Chelsea** matchday programme, a 100-page souvenir special and officially the fastest-selling Anfield matchday programme of all time. You can order it from **reachsportshop.com** or the club's official online store at **liverpoolfc.com.**





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WE ARE LIVERPOOL.
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WIN THE OFFICIAL PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 19/20 SPECIAL!

Liverpool Football Club. Premier League Champions. Back on our perch. And now there is a special official magazine to celebrate the Reds' 19th top-flight title.

Written and designed by the team behind Liverpool FC magazine, consisting of 116 pages and over 20,000 words, Premier League Champions 19/20 – Story of the Season We Made History tells how Jürgen Klopp and his players won the Premier League.

It features a comprehensive account of all 38 league games with in-depth match reports, official club photography and more stats than you can shake a big silver trophy at.

Game-by-game analysis from the press and pundits is included, as is the reaction of Liverpool's Premier League-winning manager after every match of a unique season in which the record-breaking Reds had to wait until July to be crowned champions.

The magazine's Chris McLoughlin was inside Anfield to see Jordan Henderson lift the Premier League trophy after Liverpool beat Chelsea 5-3. He writes: "Lifting the Premier League trophy on the Kop, the pulsating heartbeat of Liverpool Football Club, after it had been handed over by Sir Kenny Dalglish – a man who epitomises this football club more than any other – was as good as it could possibly get under the circumstances.

"King Kenny and Klopp on the Kop together. Embracing in a hug with the Premier League trophy, freshly engraved and sporting the reddest of all ribbons, placed next to them on the most famous stand in football. Emotional or what? Now bring on the champions..."

Published by Reach Sport and available from official club stores and liverpoolfc.com, we've got five copies to give away.

To be in with a chance of winning, simply tell us:

Who scored Liverpool's first goal against Crystal Palace at Anfield when the season resumed in June?

Email your answer, name and address with 'Champions Magazine Competition' in the subject bar to liverpoolfcmag@reachsport.com – closing date is Friday 4 September 2020, normal competition rules apply.

• The winners of last month's Magic of the Cup competition were: Warren Worswick, Liverpool; Patrick Brickley, Croxteth; Tom Szymanski, Shotton.

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Mens £34.95 / Junior £29.95



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2019/20 Fixtures & Results

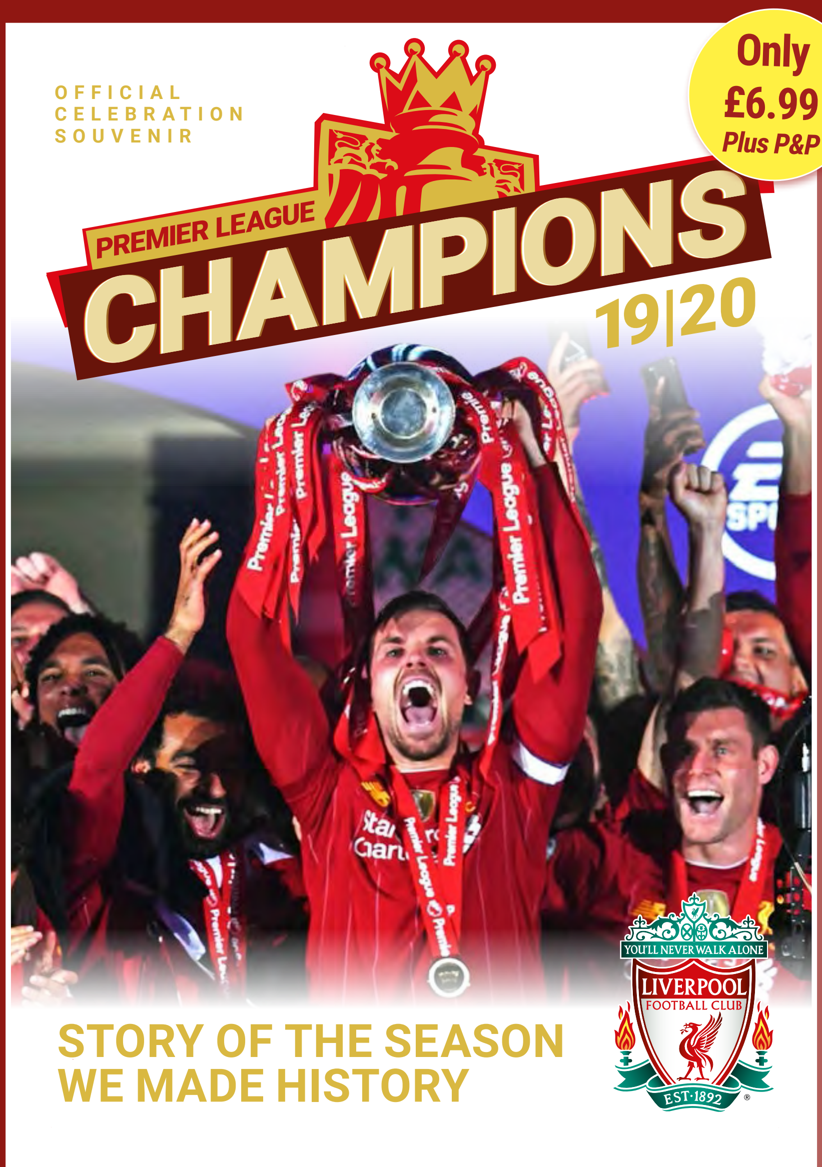
		SCORE/KO	TV	SCORERS
AUGUST				
Sun 04	Manchester City (CS, N)	1-1*	BT	Matip (pens: Shaqiri, Lallana, Chamberlain, Salah)
Fri 09	**Norwich City (H)**	**4-1**	**Sky**	**Hanley (OG), Salah, Van Dijk, Origi**
Wed 14	Chelsea (Super Cup, N)	2-2**	BT	Mane 2 (pens: Firmino, Fabinho, Origi, A-Arnold, Salah)
Sat 17	Southampton (A)	2-1		Mane, Firmino
Sat 24	**Arsenal (H)**	**3-1**	**Sky**	**Matip, Salah 2 (1 pen)**
Sat 31	Burnley (A)	3-0	Sky	Wood (OG), Mane, Firmino
SEPTEMBER				
Sat 14	**Newcastle United (H)**	**3-1**	**BT**	**Mane 2, Salah**
Tue 17	Napoli (UCL Matchday 1, A)	0-2	BT	
Sun 22	Chelsea (A)	2-1	Sky	Alexander-Arnold, Firmino
Wed 25	MK Dons (Carabao Cup 3, A)	2-0	Sky	Milner, Hoever
Sat 28	Sheffield United (A)	1-0	BT	Wijnaldum
OCTOBER				
Wed 02	**Salzburg (UCL Matchday 2, H)**	**4-3**	**BT**	**Mane, Robertson, Salah 2**
Sat 05	**Leicester City (H)**	**2-1**		**Mane, Milner (pen)**
Sun 20	Manchester United (A)	1-1	Sky	Lallana
Wed 23	Genk (UCL Matchday 3, A)	4-1	BT	Oxlade-Chamberlain 2, Mane, Salah
Sun 27	**Tottenham Hotspur (H)**	**2-1**	**Sky**	**Henderson, Salah (pen)**
Wed 30	Arsenal (Carabao Cup 4, H)	5-5**	Sky	Mustafi (OG), Milner (pen), Oxlade-Chamberlain, Origi 2 (pens: Milner, Lallana, Brewster, Origi, Jones)
NOVEMBER				
Sat 02	Aston Villa (A)	2-1		Robertson, Mane
Tue 05	**Genk (UCL Matchday 4, H)**	**2-1**	**BT**	**Wijnaldum, Oxlade-Chamberlain**
Sun 10	**Manchester City (H)**	**3-1**	**Sky**	**Fabinho, Salah, Mane**
Sat 23	Crystal Palace (A)	2-1		Mane, Firmino
Wed 27	**Napoli (UCL Matchday 5, H)**	**1-1**	**BT**	**Lovren**
Sat 30	**Brighton (H)**	**2-1**		**Van Dijk 2**
DECEMBER				
Wed 04	**Everton (H)**	**5-2**	**AP**	**Origi 2, Shaqiri, Mane, Wijnaldum**
Sat 07	Bournemouth (A)	3-0		Oxlade-Chamberlain, Keita, Salah
Tue 10	Salzburg (UCL Matchday 6, A)	2-0	BT	Keita, Mane, Salah
Sat 14	**Watford (H)**	**2-0**	**BT**	**Salah 2**
Tue 17	Aston Villa (Carabao Cup QF, A)	0-5	Sky	
Wed 18	Monterrey (CWC SF)	2-1	BBC	Keita, Firmino
Sat 21	Flamengo (CWF final)	1-0^	BBC	Firmino
Thu 26	Leicester City (A)	4-0	AP	Firmino 2, Milner (pen), Alexander-Arnold
Sun 29	**Wolverhampton W (H)**	**1-0**	**Sky**	**Mane**
JANUARY				
Thu 02	**Sheffield United (H)**	**2-0**	**BT**	**Salah, Mane**
Sun 05	Everton (FA Cup 3, H)	1-0	BBC	Jones
Sat 11	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	1-0	Sky	Firmino
Sun 19	**Manchester United (H)**	**2-0**	**Sky**	**Van Dijk, Salah**
Thu 23	Wolverhampton W (A)	2-1	BT	Henderson, Firmino
Sun 26	Shrewsbury Town (FA Cup 4, A)	2-2	BBC	Jones, Love (OG)
Wed 29	West Ham United (A)	2-0		Salah (pen), Oxlade-Chamberlain
FEBRUARY				
Sat 01	**Southampton (H)**	**4-0**		**Oxlade-Chamberlain, Henderson, Salah 2**
Tue 04	**Shrewsbury Town (FA Cup 4Rep, H)**	**1-0**		**Williams (OG)**
Sat 15	Norwich City (A)	1-0	Sky	Mane
Tue 18	Atletico Madrid (UCL R of 16 1)	0-1	BT	
Mon 24	**West Ham United (H)**	**3-2**	**Sky**	**Wijnaldum, Salah, Mane**
Sat 29	Watford (A)	0-3	Sky	
MARCH				
Tue 03	Chelsea (FA Cup 5, A)	0-2	BBC	
Sat 07	**Bournemouth (H)**	**2-1**	**BT**	**Salah, Mane**
Wed 11	**Atletico Madrid (UCL R of 16 2)**	**2-3^**	**BT**	**Wijnaldum, Firmino**
JUNE				
Sun 21	Everton (A)	0-0	Sky	
Wed 24	**Crystal Palace (H)**	**4-0**	**Sky**	**Alexander-Arnold, Salah, Fabinho, Mane**
JULY				
Thu 02	Manchester City (A)	0-4	Sky	
Sun 05	**Aston Villa (H)**	**2-0**	**Sky**	**Mane, Jones**
Wed 08	Brighton (A)	3-1	Sky	Salah 2, Henderson
Sat 11	**Burnley (H)**	**1-1**	**BT**	**Robertson**
Wed 15	Arsenal (A)	1-2	Sky	Mane
Wed 22	**Chelsea (H)**	**5-3**	**Sky**	**Keita, Alexander-Arnold, Wijnaldum, Firmino, Oxlade-Chamberlain**
Sun 26	Newcastle United (A)	3-1	BT	Van Dijk, Origi, Mane

All fixtures subject to change. AP = Amazon Prime *lost 5-4 on pens ** won 5-4 on pens ^after extra-time



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NEIL MELLOR

Who wouldn't want to play for Liverpool right now? It will be interesting to see if the manager chooses to strengthen

Liverpool are now in a position to attract the top players in world football. Whereas in the past the Reds would miss out on top transfer targets like Willian or Alexis Sanchez, the club now has a successful team, a manager any player would want to play for, and the lure of regular Champions League football and trophies.

The question for Jürgen Klopp this summer is does he stick with the squad who have won the Champions League, Super Cup, Club World Cup and Premier League in the space of 13 months? Or does he twist by bringing new players to Anfield?

There's an argument that you should always bring in reinforcements from a position of strength. Manchester City did that last summer by spending over £120m on Rodri and Joao Cancelo, whereas Liverpool brought in Adrian and Andy Lonergan on free-transfers.

For the Reds to then finish 18 points clear of City shows you don't always need to spend, but the difference this year is that two experienced players in Adam Lallana and Dejan Lovren have already moved on, leaving two positions to fill. It makes me think that the manager will go into the transfer market to freshen things up rather than completely rely on younger players stepping in.

Klopp isn't scared to play young players but you have to accept that they are usually inconsistent. To win the Premier League, you have to be consistent, so while I could envisage the likes of Neco Williams and Ki-Jana Hoever getting opportunities, they might also benefit from a season out on-loan.

Curtis Jones is different. I see him as a regular member of the first-team squad now and I wouldn't send Harvey Elliott out on loan either. At 17, Elliott already has so much ability and has a lot to gain from being around Mo Salah, Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino, Jordan Henderson and James Milner every day.

He can learn far more from being in a Premier League-winning squad than getting game-time elsewhere at this point in his career.

Loan-spells can be beneficial and we've seen that with Rhian Brewster. After being out for so long with injury, Brewster needed game-time. He fired Swansea City into the play-offs, when they were ten points behind Nottingham Forest with six games to play, scoring 11 goals in total.

I really like Brewster and believe he'll be involved for Liverpool next season. Divock Origi has done some great things in a red shirt, but Brewster is a more natural centre-forward. He got minutes under his belt at Swansea, but must now use the shortened pre-season to show the manager he should be part of his matchday squad.

What the future holds for Harry Wilson will be interesting to see. Wilson is 23 and, when you consider that Liverpool have made over £70m in recent years by selling Jordon Ibe, Andre Wisdom, Kevin Stewart, Danny Ward, Dominic Solanke, Rafa Camacho and Ryan Kent, he could be a player the manager moves on to strengthen elsewhere.

Attracting players who aren't guaranteed to start is a potential issue. For instance, some attacking players might look at the front-three and think: wow, they're the best in the world, I won't get a game. The player Klopp needs is the one who looks at the front-three and thinks: wow, they're the best in the world, I want to be part of that.

You sign for a team believing you're good enough to be in it and at Liverpool under Klopp, everyone gets an opportunity. Given the amount of football many of his players have played, both for club and country, in the last two years, there may well be even more chances in 2020/21.



Liverpool have got an unbelievable starting XI at the moment, but can we get through another season without having many injuries to key players?

The front-three rarely get injured, Virgil van Dijk hasn't missed a Premier League game for more than two seasons. Henderson hasn't missed many games during that time, nor have Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andy Robertson.

Nobody should doubt this group of players, but I think Liverpool will need good fortune with injuries if they are to win the Premier League again without strengthening in the transfer market.

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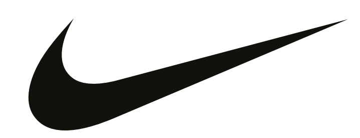
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